



The Kerrigans are Coming!

On behalf of the Preacher Search Committee and the Elders, Bill Bell announced that the position of Preaching Minister had been offered to Gilbert Kerrigan and that he has accepted. We don't have all the details as yet, but I ask you to join me now in praying for Gilbert, Kate, and Cole as they prepare to make their journey to the "great white north." Kate is already teaching school, so she will have to make arrangements for her departure and the Kerrigans will need to sell their house in Bowling Green. On top of everything else, Cole will have his first birthday this Thursday (the 30th).

Gilbert was our second candidate in and I heard many positive things after their visit with us. I am personally very pleased with the selection and I look forward to many great years serving alongside Gilbert. Because of camp, I did not get to hear his lesson in person, but I did watch the DVD and he and I have already developed a good starting relationship. He and I have had regular conversations on the phone and via e-mail. Gilbert is young, but that doesn't concern me as he has a passion for doing God's will and he loves to preach and serve God's family. I love the fact that he has a very strong evangelistic drive and he has had a good deal of experience with small groups (LIFE Groups). In addition, Kerrigan's entrance to ministry was as a campus ministry intern, so he will have insight and passion for the ministry we have at Purdue.

It has been a while since I have welcomed a new preacher...some of you never have. I think it is very important that we do all we can to help the Kerrigans get acclimated to Lafayette/Elmwood life as quickly as possible. We will be making their e-mail address, phone number, etc., available to all of you very soon. I remember that when I was getting ready to move here nine years ago, I felt like I really knew many in the church family because I had regular correspondence with many in the family, long before I arrived. I learned early on that Indiana was not a scary place and we need to be sure to help Gilbert, Kate, and Cole to experience the same.

Pray for Gilbert's ministry transition. Pray for Kate's departure from teaching in Kentucky and for a teaching opportunity to open up in Lafayette. Pray for their house to sell quickly and for them to be able to find the right housing here. Pray for Elmwood as we move forward together in God's will.

– Lee

A Preacher Selected

As I announced Sunday, our minister search has ended. The elders have offered the job of senior minister to Gilbert Kerrigan and he has accepted.

We have not established a start date for Gilbert because he has a house to sell, among other things, but we will work to get him here as soon as we can. As you may have noticed, Josh Boyd will have our pulpit responsibilities until Gilbert arrives.

You can send welcome e-notes to Gilbert, Kate and Cole at gilbertkerrigan@yahoo.com. Also, Gilbert's son Cole will be one year old on Thursday and I am sure they would welcome birthday wishes for Cole. More about Gilbert can be seen on <http://gkerrigan.wordpress.com>.

–Bill Bell

All-Church Annual Picnic September 9—Columbian Park



September 9 is the date for Elmwood's annual All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park. We'll plan to eat at 12:30. Bring plenty to share as we invite our neighbors, friends and family to join us. Come to Shelter A (big shelter nearest Home Hospital), and enjoy the food, fun, fellowship, and games.



Max Houlton visits with the cardiologist on Thursday before scheduling surgery for lung cancer in September....Bob Stafford awaits results on recent tests on his back and will have a biopsy on his lung this week.....Doctors are trying to determine the cause of chronic health problems for Susan Shidler, Sheryl Willison's sister...Continue praying for Susan Swensen, Donnie Rigdon, Carolyn Rigdon, Valley Stockton, Dick & Janice Waterstraat, Henry Hunt, Oka LeMaster, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Cirotta, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.



Serving in our military: Jeremy Crable, Michael Farris, & Michael Bryenton in Afghanistan; Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson, and Ti Draughton (Amanda Martin's husband) in Iraq; and Chris Martin, in South Korea.

The Man I Want To Be! September 21-23

Don't Wait! SIGN UP NOW!!!

Come join us at our Men's Retreat and learn about finding your way to a life that counts! Spend a weekend in learning, worshiping and fellowship with Christian Men who desire a higher purpose in life.

Join us at Ross Camp. Look for the signup sheets in the foyers. If you cannot attend then consider helping others attend by making a donation or helping with a scholarship. The cost covers facilities, meals and snacks during the retreat.

Cost: \$55 (overnight 2 nights), \$45 (daytime only) and \$25 for students. Make checks payable to Elmwood Church of Christ and give to Greg Sutherland. You can start a layaway plan (part now, the rest later) if you like.

Don't Wait! SIGN UP NOW!!!



Mary Cole, 81, mother of Cheri Vaughn, died Saturday after a long struggle with emphysema and most recently pneumonia. The family will receive visitors one hour before the 2:00 memorial service at Hippensteel Funeral Home on Wednesday. Our sincere sympathies to Cheri and her family.

Attention Parents!

Children's Church for grades 1-5 will resume this Sunday, Sept. 2, during second service.

—Joe Ruhl

Workday Planned for Friday, Aug. 31, & Sat., Sept. 1

Lynae Stafford and others plan to clean out closets, put up new bulletin boards, sort, and clean up classrooms for the start of the new quarter. Work will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday, August 31, and Saturday, September 1. Come when you can and for as long as you can. It will be a great time for teachers to get their rooms decorated and ready for Sunday.

August 26, 2007

Class: 172 Worship: 272

Contribution: \$6,130

Budget: \$10,000/week



Philemon

The topic of slavery and freedom is an interesting one in the New Testament. It is a common theme throughout many of Paul's letters, and he relies on it heavily to get many various points across.

One of the books that I am particularly fond of in the New Testament is the book of Philemon. This seemingly personal letter has long held a position in the canon of the New Testament, yet it is often asked "why".

Paul's letter to Philemon is a unique one. It is his shortest letter and it is often overlooked, but I think that even though it doesn't have any expressly theological statements, it is still a valuable resource and speaks to the Christian wondering how Christ should change his or her life.

Philemon, a slave-owner and recent convert to Christianity by Paul, has had a slave run away from him for some unidentified reason. The slave's name is Onesimus, which means useful. Onesimus has come to Paul for protection from his master, as running away from one's master could be punished by death if the master so chose. In the meantime, Onesimus has also become a Christian.

It is into this delicate socio-political atmosphere that Paul writes to Philemon concerning his slave.

Philemon has in the past been used inappropriately to support slavery, because Paul does not choose to fight the systemic slavery which is in place in the Roman Empire. This reading, however, misses the more important point of Paul's letter.

While it is true that Paul does not try to fight the cultural situation of slavery outright, he does something much more subversive and powerful and makes sure that this personal letter, with this message, is read to the entire congregation of which Philemon is a part.

Paul tells Philemon to receive Onesimus no longer as a slave, but as a beloved brother (16). This statement sums up Paul's message in his letter to Philemon. To expand on this idea, and to put it in different terms, Paul is telling Philemon that the message of Christ, and being a Christian profoundly changes your life. Your relationships are no longer defined by culture. Your society and its norms can no longer hamper your relationships with other people. One must see other people through different eyes when one becomes part of the body of Christ, and this necessitates change with or without political action. This applies to us as well as to Philemon. No longer can we allow social structures to confine our relationships when we have been called by Christ to be brother and sister to the outcast.

—Phil

New Fall Class Offered

Women's roles in the church will be the subject of a Wednesday evening series from **September 12 through November 28**. Participants will study the major positions on this issue, including reviews of key Biblical passages. Class presentations will distill the writings of prominent authors and handouts will be provided for more detailed personal study. A short class discussion, moderated by Joe Ruhl, will follow each presentation. Contact Sue Wilder if you would like more information. Anyone interested in learning more about this topic is invited to attend. Watch future newsletters for room assignment.

Ongoing Adult Bible Study



It has been referred to as the "Adult Challenger" program. It is a systemic study of the entire Bible through reading, discussing, reviewing and testing (optional). Those who have attended the classes have found this to be a very good way to learn the scriptures and to better know and understand God's will for our worship and our daily walk with Him. The class meets in room 17 (the Conference/Media room located across the hall from the food pantry) on Sunday mornings at 9:30, and in room 19 on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. The study continues through both classes and attendance at both is encouraged, however, much can be gained by attending either one alone. Current teacher: Bill Hodges.

*We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark.
The real tragedy of life is when adults are
afraid of the Light.*

—Anonymous



August 29, 11:30 AM....Senior Servants meet at Golden Corral for lunch

August 29, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

September 9, noon....All-church picnic at Columbian Park, Shelter A

September 16....LIFE Groups begin

September 21, 22, 23....Men's Retreat at Ross Camp

Read:
Isa. 7-26; II Cor. 11-
Galatians 2

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 37: September 10-16

What glorious words are found in this week's reading from Isaiah 9:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

God's provisions for his people are above and beyond what we could ever imagine. The people hadn't even thought of asking for a child . . . a son . . . but with 20/20 hindsight we know that was exactly what they (we) needed.

And then in the next paragraph it's as if they never even heard what God said:

The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel.

All the people will know it—Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria—who say with pride and arrogance of heart,

"The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone;

the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars."

"We'll take care of ourselves. We can do it. We know how! Just stand back and watch us!" And in the next verses, God tells them they don't have a clue. God wants to be in charge . . . he IS in charge . . . when will they ever learn?

For World Christian Broadcasting's new Madagascar tower we needed to find a Senior Producer to create the broadcasts that will cover Africa with a strong, clear signal. I've thought about it, worried about it: How will we ever find the right person? One day last month God smiled and dropped into our laps a man in our fellowship who probably has more experience in the length and breadth of Africa than any other living person. We didn't even call! He called us to say he has had the growing sense that he might be of service to us! Ah yes—in Isaiah's time and in ours, God IS in charge! —Gayle Crowe

 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.	Ministers	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	Office Manager	
	Sherry Marks 447-2874	

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This Week's Highlight: Sheep

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away
in the parable Jesus told,
A grown up sheep that had gone astray
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought
And back to the flock, safe in to the fold
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long
And as earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger if they go wrong
They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray
When the sheep go wrong it will not be long
til the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead
For the sake of the lambs today
If a sheep is lost, what a terrible cost
Some lamb will have to pay.

Author Unknown

