



The Most Descriptive Word

What one adjective would you use to best describe the church? Yes, you can choose only one. There are a host to choose from, and indeed as you are reading this probably more than one comes to mind. But what would be the defining adjective that you would choose? I am not simply talking about Elmwood (although it would certainly apply to Elmwood) when I say church; instead, I mean the universal church. The church, in its various forms and locations, across the globe. It is a difficult task, isn't it?!

In recent decades many adjectives have been used to define the church. Some of these include: innovative, contemporary, liturgical, and purpose-driven. But, according to the winter 2007 edition of *Leadership Magazine*, churches are becoming more and more disillusioned with these terms claiming that church leaders are "(re)discovering that the essential calling of the church has less to do with the way a church is organized, its doctrinal distinctions, or its style of music, and more to do with the *missio Dei* (mission of God)."

If the church isn't *missional*, then it isn't anything at all. Jesus made it clear to his disciples before he ascended to the heavens that the church has a mission . . . to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Christ. We are indeed to be a church that is *missional*, constantly moving, growing, and expanding the borders of the kingdom of God.

Our work in this world is at the core of our identity! We are a missional people which means we need to be about our mission! Whether *mission* is the perfect adjective to define the church today or not, it is clear that we have a mission set before us by our Lord; and I can think of another word to describe how I feel about the opportunity to serve in the mission God has given us . . . *privileged*.
-Dan

Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

A Workable Plan

Everyday there are constant threats to our faith, and for many of us the amount of spiritual instruction we receive is disproportionate to the amount of time we are instructed in the ways of the world. We spend three hours a week being instructed in God's ways (on a good week!), but countless hours being bombarded by the world. In terms of time alone, the world has a much greater amount of input than God does.

This calls for strategy, intentionality, and perseverance. Here are a few things I would suggest to reclaim some of the time that the world takes away from our time spent nurturing our walks with Christ:

- 1) Demand of yourself 10-15 minutes of quiet time everyday and use that time to pray, meditate on the word, or to engage in another discipline of spiritual growth.
- 2) Choose your entertainment wisely. Movies, books, music and other forms of entertainment have a profound effect on your growth as a human being. Choose to give those items to God.
- 3) Plan to succeed. Sometimes we get caught up in the cycle of simply trying to manage the sin in our lives precisely because we do not plan to succeed. Plan to succeed by thinking ahead and not placing yourself in tempting situations. The battle best won is the one never fought.

These are but a few ways that you can give your time back to God. By doing this, the Spirit will have the time He needs to change you at your core! Fight back and let your faith have the room and the time to flourish!
-Dan

"Why I Believe"

This Sunday, March 4, at the 6:00 worship hour, **Joe Ruhl** will conclude his reflections on "**Why I Believe.**" This series is as inspiring as his "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" and "Evolution through the Eyes of Faith." His faith definitely impacts his teaching of science and genetics at Jefferson High School in Lafayette. You'll not want to miss this series! Invite family and friends.

Going Away Party...

Women, please mark your calendar for this **Saturday, March 3, 5:30 PM**, for a carry-in dinner for **Lisa Crowe** at the building in A2. Come enjoy the fellowship and share memories with Lisa.

A Women's Tea Is Being Planned!



Let's have tea on Saturday, March 17 from 1:30-3:30 PM. The Women's Tea will be held in the homes of various hostesses. Smaller groups will make it easier to become better acquainted. Hostesses will provide hot drinks, and guests bring goodies to share. **You may still sign up to attend. Let Barb Tilley know by calling her at 474-5161.**

Men's Breakfast, March 17, 7:43 AM



Men, mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 17, 7:43 AM-8:59 AM**, for breakfast in A2. The food and fellowship are great. After eating and singing, we'll listen to Tom Miller give us some encouraging words. -Kevin Walters

Lafayette Christian School enrolling for next school year

Lafayette Christian School is now enrolling students for all grades from pre-school through 8th grade. A Kindergarten Call Out is scheduled for **Thursday evening, March 1, at 6 PM.** An **Open House for preschool and pre-kindergarten** is scheduled for the same evening. These are informational meetings for parents seeking a Christ-centered education for their children. Contact principal Abe Vreeke at 447-3052 for more information.



Thank You!

I wish to thank the children of the Elmwood Church of Christ for the beautiful Valentine package they made for me and filled with cute cards, delicious cookies and other goodies. All were appreciated more than I can tell you.

*In Christian love,
Delpha Allen*

**THE SNOW SERVANTS
FOR THIS WEEK
(Feb. 25-March, 3) are
Kyle & Jamie Banter
THEY ARE ON CALL TO
REMOVE SNOW**

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night were: **Marilyn Walters, Betty Brown, Ann Vaught, Dottie Roberts, & Carol Koons.**

February 18, 2007
Class: 155 Worship: 214
Contribution: \$4,139
Budget: \$8,550

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



The State of Youth Ministry

Because I know this church family cares about teens and it believes they are the church of today as well as the church of tomorrow, I thought I might share some interesting things.

A few weeks ago, I was given an article from *Time* magazine (November 6, 2006). In the article, it stated some things that youth ministries and churches were learning that we already knew. The bottom line was that if youth ministry only focused on fun and games (candy coated youth ministry) teens were less likely to grow spiritually and to be lifetime followers of Christ. The article stated that many youth ministries were becoming more scripture focused and were finding that students liked it. Our experience would support that. Our ministry has always tried to include a good dose of fun and games, but we have also tried to show that following Christ in itself can be a fun experience...and life changing. The eCy ministry is based on three key scriptures: John 8:31 – spending time with God, John 13:34, 35 – loving each other as Christ loves us, and John 15:8 – bearing fruit and giving God the glory. We have found that the teens love to dig into scripture and to see how it applies to daily life. We want them to know as much scripture as possible when they leave the eCy group, but we believe it is equally important to be able to use what they know; even Satan knows scripture, he just doesn't allow it to positively change him.

You may have noticed that our teens are really trying to reach out to their searching/seeking friends. We have lots of visitors on Wednesday nights because it is a comfortable setting and we deal with very personal and practical issues. Many of the guests who come our way have been in churches all their lives and often respond with, "I didn't know that was in the Bible" or something similar. I know for a long time, Wednesday nights have been seen as optional or unnecessary...I am thankful to say that many of our teens would tell you that they get as much and sometimes more out of Wednesday nights.

I believe that Josh Boyd's challenge to the teens to take their friends to Winterfest was a great shot in the arm. Our teens have always known that it was good to bring their friends, but I think this reminded them that the adults are watching, but more than that, they are supportive and praying for them. The next step is of course for the church family to reach their families. We want teens to come to know Christ, but we want their families to come to faith in Him as well.

Thank you for loving and supporting me as I work with the teens. Please feel free to volunteer and join with me anytime. There is a lot to be done and many to reach.

- Lee



Brian Witherbee, 26, son of Cecil and Sherry Witherbee, who are former Elmwood members, died unexpectedly Saturday in Indianapolis. Brian had just learned on Thursday that he had a brain tumor. Surgery was scheduled for Tuesday at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Our hearts go out to the Witherbees on this tragic loss. Funeral arrangements: they will welcome friends and family on **Friday, March 2, from 2:00 until 3:30 before the memorial service at 3:30 at Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Home.** It is located at Washington Park North Center, 2706 W. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis. Cecil & Sherry's address is 9150 N. Kissel Rd., Zionsville, 46077.



Dick Waterstraat has continued to have health problems. He is taking medicine for stomach bacteria and will have tests this week for his heart....**Roy Stafford**, John's father, is to have surgery Wednesday....**Julie Lichty**, friend of Lynae Stafford, is having serious complications with diabetes.... Continue praying for **Henrietta Framp-ton, Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Annie Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Beth Holt, Kaden Koebecke, Marcia Swails, Lynn Robinson, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** (Afghanistan); **Brian Guthrie** (Qatar, Persian Gulf), **Robbie Mullinax**, stateside training; **Joshua Thompson** (grandson of Mary Lou Baugh in Iraq), **Jon Kiefner** (Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq); and **Amanda Martin** (South Korea:). **Philip Devine** will be home February 26. This Sunday, March 4, will be his last Sunday before going to Iraq.



- February 28, 6 PM...**Good \$ense budget class
- February 28, 7 PM...**Bible Classes for all
- March 3, 5:30 PM...**Women's Carry-in dinner for Lisa Crowe at Elmwood, A2
- March 4, 6 PM...**At Elmwood Joe Ruhl concludes "Why I Believe"
- March 17, 7:43 AM...**Men's Breakfast in A2
- March 17, 1:30-3:30 PM...**Women's Tea

Read:
Numbers 16-31
Acts 13:24-17:15

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 11: March 12-18

The Winds of Change

A few years ago, a couple of adventurers tried to become the first to circle the globe in a hot air balloon. They took off from St. Louis, Missouri, rose to 24,000 feet, and started eastward across the Atlantic Ocean toward Africa. The prevailing winds carried the balloonists on a direct course for Libya, which was a big problem. Libya is ruled by a dictator who hates Americans and doesn't want American balloons flying over his country. There was a pretty good chance that the balloon would be shot down if it crossed Libyan air space.

This brings up another big problem. Hot air balloons aren't easy to turn. In fact, they can't be turned at all. They're at the mercy of the wind.

But they can find different winds. This is done by changing altitude. At a higher or lower altitude, a balloonist can usually find a crosswind blowing in a different direction.

*So the quick thinking adventurers started letting hot air out of their balloon and dropped 6,000 feet. At that altitude, they found a wind that was blowing south rather than east. Once they were safely to the south of Libya and its missiles, they heated up the balloon, rose almost 10,000 feet, and caught another wind that was blowing eastward toward their destination (**Hot Illustrations**).*

This story reminds me of this week's readings in Acts. The focus is on Paul and Barnabus' ministry and especially some of the difficulties they faced. I think it is very interesting that the two Christ followers never allowed discouragement to rule...actually the challenges they faced seemed to energize them.

I wonder if there isn't a message from the balloonists and Paul and Barnabus for us at Elmwood. We are experiencing winds of change. How will we choose to navigate? Will we allow the winds to take us where we don't wish to go, or will we take a little air out or add a little air to help us stay on course for God. I say let's let His Spirit direct us to exciting times ahead – destination? God knows, enough said.

- Lee Porter