



Join Me, Won't You?

I've heard Rick Swensen pray it more than once and I have even verbalized it many times myself, but I'm not sure my actions have lived up to the desire, "send us the family you have prepared for us, Lord." I'll be honest; I have gotten the opportunity to see most of the résumés. I have had the opportunity to do a little background checking—calling a couple references and touching base with some of my connections who know the applicants for our preaching minister position. I'll be even more honest; I picked my favorites from the four men/families coming in and I have even verbalized my preferences to a couple people.

I have been in ministry for twenty-eight years...I started my tenth year here at Elmwood on July 1...and as a result, I have some very strong opinions about what the next preacher should "look" like. Of course, I don't mean physical appearance, but qualities, characteristics, etc. If you are being honest, you have some opinions as well and they may just not match up with what I think.

I'm sorry! I need to start over...join me won't you? I need to live out Rick's prayer and trust that the Lord has indeed prepared someone specifically for us at Elmwood. I need to wait through the process of all four interviews and then I need to prayerfully consider everything that each of the men/families "brings to the table." I need to be ready to accept that my initial pick may not be the right one for us. It could even be that the man I was least interested in might just be the one God is sending our way. Are you prepared for the same?

I doubt seriously that our next preacher will have been the unanimous choice of the church...probably not even of the search committee. I think I'm ready to take a back seat where I belong and let God show me what is best for His church at Elmwood. I ask all of you to join me...won't you? – Lee

Candidate #2

Elmwood Church of Christ
July 13-15, 2007
Agenda

Friday July 13, 2007:

- 3-5:00 PM Arrive Holiday Inn Select
- 6:00 PM Dinner with Lee Porter family, Bill Bell family & Phil Travis; points of interest tour (show church location, campus)

Saturday July 14, 2007

- 8:00 AM Family breakfast with Elders and wives
- 9:00 Candidate interview with the Elders
- 11:00 Interview with Deacons & Staff
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 4:30 Candidate interview with Search Committee
- 6:00 Dinner with Search committee
- 7:00 Meet N' Greet Devotional at Elmwood with Congregation; Philosophy of Ministry Presentation for all and entertain questions
- 9:00 PM Return to Hotel

Sunday July 15, 2007

- 7:00 AM Breakfast on own at Hotel
- 8:00 First Service
- 9:30 Teach Bible Class in auditorium
- 10:45 Second Service
- 12:00 PM Lunch at The Trails with Elders and wives
- 3:00 Final wrap up with Elders

VBS needs....

Please help make our Vacation Bible School successful! If you have any of the following items, would you mind bringing them to church? Tape your name on the item and place it in the VBS box in the Farris foyer as soon as possible. **Volunteers are needed for crew leaders** (someone to lead 3-5 children around to activity stations) and **people for decorating**. On **July 28 and August 4** we will meet at the building to decorate. Thanks for your help.

- one 6-foot stepladders
- 12 plastic plants
- 8 buckets (medium size)
- 2 dowel rods
- red rope or cord
- small, dark, plastic tarp
- pocketknife
- electric campfire
- newspaper
- firewood - 10 logs
- plastic tubs (15) big enough for children's feet
- 30 pencils
- 40 paint brushes (kids' size)
- 25 flat river rocks (size of a child's fist)
- 30 glue sticks
- 40 cotton balls
- 8 ping pong balls
- many craft beads (multicolored)
- glue dots
- tempre paint (3 primary colors)
- yarn
- poly-fill markers
- water color markers
- double sided tape
- 40 styrofoam plates
- 40 marker pens



Mr. & Mrs. Lee Porter
and

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hottmann

invite you to share in the joy as their children
Jessica Brooke & Nickolas Edwin
commit their lives in marriage
on Saturday, the eleventh of August, 2007
at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Oxford United Methodist Church
21 East Burdick Street, Oxford, Michigan

July 8, 2007

Class: 174 Worship: 264 Contribution: \$10,349

Budget: \$8,550



Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and visits. Also a special thank you to the 2's & 3's and their special prayer.

In Christian love, Delores Nolan

Men's Breakfast



The food is being ordered and plans are underway for the Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, July 21, at 7:43 AM**. Sign up sheets are posted in the foyers. Bring your sons, grandsons, and friends, and start your day with some good fellowship and tasty food.

Our sympathies...

Our sincere sympathies to **Annie & Elaine Crowder** on the death of Annie's youngest sister, Georgia Woodland, 76, of Barnesville, Ohio. She died last week and Annie and Elaine went to Ohio for the funeral.

Volunteer at Indiana Veterans' Home

Call Volunteer Services for seasonal activities and volunteer orientation dates. All Indiana Veterans' Home registered volunteers receive professional training, meal option, references, recognition awards and flexible schedules in a comfortable "home like" environment. Call 497-8020 or email: ivhvolcoor@aol.com if you'd like to help "serve those who served."



C.U.M.O.

This week many teens from the ECY will be at camp C.U.M.O. (Cincinnati Urban Mission Outreach). For those of you who do not know, the camp is run in large part by ECY and the youth group from the Withamsville Church of Christ in Cincinnati. This is the third time that ECY will be going to camp C.U.M.O. and we are all excited for this opportunity to serve others.

C.U.M.O., a unique camping experience for our youth, is not really a vacation for the teens—it is a lot of hard work and requires a ton of patience. This camp is not created for the teenagers, instead the teens are asked to be the counselors to a whole crew of inner-city elementary school children.

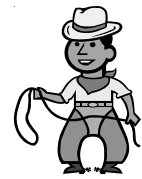
This week of camp is not a walk in the park; it is taxing mentally, emotionally, and physically as we try to wrestle with keeping all those kids under control as well as trying to fulfill our mission of helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Many of the teens going have been before, and know the challenges that lay ahead, yet they know that their presence in the camper's lives means something very real to the campers. For some campers this is the only week where they will eat three meals a day, and many of them will be safer at camp going down the zip line, than they would be in their beds at home.

This week is very important to the campers, not only is it a safe place where there are three meals a day (which they love!), but it is also a place where they can learn about God. It is surprising how little many of these children know about God and Christianity, but this camp is a place where they can learn how to follow God.

This week's theme, "**Crossover**," emphasizes the change that takes place when one becomes a Christian and there are three main points. "**From one coach to another**" teaches the campers that Christians follow God. "**From one team to another**" encourages the campers to work together and not be divided by worldly things. Finally, "**One Attitude to Another**" reminds the campers that a Christian has a different attitude than non-Christians.

This week will be taxing, but rewarding for all of the camp's volunteers. Please remember them in your prayers as they empty themselves for others for the glory of God.
—Phil

Vacation Bible School August 8-12



Let's corral 80 kids at Avalanche Ranch.
August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM
August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM
August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM
YOU can help make it happen.

Parents may now register their children online at the Elmwood Church of Christ website: elmwood-church.org, obtain a form at the church, or call the church office and give us your information.

Prayer concerns....

Seth Mullen will have surgery this Friday, July 13, in Chicago to remove/repair the broken rod in his back from the spinal fusion. He will also have plastic surgery to repair the sore this has created....**Janice Waterstraat** had two stints inserted on Thursday to open up blockage to her heart. She'll have more tests for the possible need of a pacemaker....**Carolyn Burrell's** sister-in-law, **Lorena Poindexter's**, surgery went better than expected....**Leo Klemme**, Michelle Robson's father, had surgery for colon cancer last week....**Henry Hunt**, David's father, had knee replacement surgery July 9. He is also being treated for a recurrence of prostate cancer....Continue praying for **Delores Nolan, Rachel Eby, Elizabeth Tinkle, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Jeanette Tidrick, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Ciota, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Jo Gelfand, Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Valley Stockton, 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 Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson** (*grandson of Mary Lou Baugh*), in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

Coming Soon....

July 11, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
July 14, 7 PM....Prospective minister candidate meet n' greet devotional with congregation; philosophy of ministry presentation for all
July 15, AM worship hours....Prospective preacher speaks at both worship hours
August 8-12....Vacation Bible School

Read:
II Chronicles 23-Ezra 5;
Romans 1-7

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 30: July 23-29

Romans 1-7

In Romans 5:8, Paul writes, “God proved his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” and in 5:10, he says “while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son.”

All wars and conflicts, large or small, share one truth. The principle of exclusion is at work. It’s either them or us. We win, they lose. From the streets of the Middle East, to the streets of Middle America, to the church pew, exclusion dominates our fallen world. However, God in Christ offers us a different way. “While we were enemies” God in Jesus Christ, moved toward us to break through the powers that exclude, offering us a full loving embrace (reconciliation). He did not achieve this by ignoring the truth of our sinfulness (enemies). Nor did he do it by eliminating our complicity (human responsibility). Rather, God in Christ, knowing that we actively conspire to be enemy combatants, responded with full embrace (grace). God, refusing to treat his enemies as enemies, runs toward them in full freedom and vulnerability offering Himself in love.

As followers of God in Jesus Christ (Christians) we are called to behave just like God as we reflect an image of him into this fallen world. As the people of God, we do have enemies, but we can never respond to them *as* enemies. We must take the hostility of others seriously, but we must not be hostile. We must renounce our own exclusions while acting in love towards our enemies. But, here is the tough part, *we must do this while they are still our enemies, before they have apologized, reformed, or changed.* Though they still hold the raised sword of hostility, we must lay down our sword, meeting them with and in love just as our God met us while we were still enemies. It is hard. It doesn’t make sense. We will often fail. Yet this is our calling, our vocation, as an individual and a community. We are God’s instruments of grace. We are his ministers of reconciliation.

—David Hunt