



Unlearning Church

That is the title of a book I'm reading right now. It has really challenged me and is making me think about a lot of things. Do you ever wonder if what we have always done is not what needs to be done anymore? Don't get crazy on me! Not all traditions, procedures, etc., are inherently bad. I'm not ready to toss out any non-negotiable items, but I wonder if there are things we have done and are doing that just won't work anymore. The author, Michael Slaughter says: *"Moderns and postmoderns will continue alongside each other for some time. But to continue to take our cues from the boomers (modern mindset - LP) will cause us to miss the next generation. To understand the seismic shift in today's changing worldview, we have to focus on the under-thirty-five age group. More than anyone alive today, they tend to connect with what postmodernity is all about. Many attempts at renewal are still repeating what they did in the 1980s and 1990s when many baby boomers were reconnecting with church. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, but the cultural language is continually changing. The formulas of the 1980s and 1990s won't work for the future with the millennial generations."*

Since we are in this time of transition, why shouldn't we carefully consider all the things we are doing, how we are doing them, and maybe even more importantly – why we are doing them. Just because we have always done it that way can't be a sufficient answer! If there is no other way to do what we are doing, so be it. If there is a way we can do things to make more people aware of the Christ and their need for His presence in their lives, then let's make the shift...yesterday.

I am actually a little excited about the possibilities with the postmodern world view. Slaughter goes on to say, *"People of today's postmodern era are experiencing an identity crisis. On the one hand, they demonstrate an intense spiritual hunger left by the vacuum of modernity. On the other hand, they are open to a cafeteria-style spirituality that consists of whatever works. Most are looking outside the Christian faith to find a sense of spiritual connection. Postmoderns are seeking an experience of the "Mysterious Other" but believe the religion of the church to be restricting."*

Let's look carefully at ourselves and offer these seekers a healthy relationship with Christ through teaching and practices that truly connect. Is there something we need to "Un-Learn" at Elmwood? –Lee

Candidate #3

Elmwood Church of Christ
July 20-22, 2007
Agenda

Friday July 20, 2007:

6:00 PM Arrive at Indianapolis airport; dinner with Bill Bell family; points of interest tour (show church location, campus)

Saturday July 21, 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 22, 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 & wives, and the Porters
3:00 Final wrap up with Elders

Men's Breakfast



The food has been ordered and plans are underway for the Men's Breakfast this **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.

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.
—Michelle Robson

- 12 plastic plants
- 8 buckets (medium size)
- double-sided tape
- small, dark, plastic tarp
- pocketknife
- newspaper
- firewood - 10 logs
- 40 paint brushes (kids' size)
- 40 marker pens
- 30 Glue sticks
- 30 pencils
- 30 glue sticks
- 8 ping pong balls
- many craft beads (multicolored)
- glue dots
- tempre paint (3 primary colors)
- yarn
- poly-fill markers
- water color markers



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



Happy 64th Anniversary!



Paul & Ruth Marks celebrated their **64th wedding anniversary** on Tuesday, July 17. Paul lives in the assisted living area of Rosewalk Village, and Ruth is confined to the Alzheimer's wing at Rosewalk Village. Paul loves to receive visitors. Congratulations, Paul and Ruth!

Congratulations to the Koons!

On June 6 **Josh & Cassidy Koons** welcomed their newborn son, **Boston Tyler**, who weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces. They are currently living in the Chicago area.

On June 27 their daughter and son-in-law, **Jessy & Kevin Stewart**, welcomed their second daughter, **Tanabeth Joy**, who weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce, to their family. Jessy and Kevin are living in Searcy, Arkansas.

Congratulations, Cecil and Carol, for the additions to your family!

July 15, 2007
Class: 160 Worship: 237
Contribution: \$4,868
Budget: \$8,550

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The Christian and Community

Community is an essential part of Christianity. Though there are times when being alone is an important part of a person's spiritual journey, the Church is the mode in which people travel the path of faith.

It seems that the early church in Jerusalem spent each day with other Christians in fellowship, in community (Acts 2:42-47). For better or for worse, that model has been forgotten, changed or replaced in America by weekly meetings and, perhaps, small group meetings. I don't believe that it is essential to be exactly like the Jerusalem church to be a Christian community. There is not evidence from the letters to the other early churches that this was the general model to be followed by all Christians, but I do think that there is something very powerful within a caring, involved Christian community.

For so many people, church has simply become another social group that one can join. It has its dues, but it also has its benefits; ultimately though, it does not infiltrate the entirety of one's life, but simply remains something that one is a part of. This is part of the reason that I love working with young people, both college-aged as well as teenagers. There is a growing trend among the youth of our nation (the sub-thirty crowd) that wants something more than just Sunday morning and Wednesday night. People that understand that things that are worthwhile cost something.

I am excited to begin working at the CSC, because here is a place that each and every day, Christians come together, not just for a scripture, a prayer and a rousing chorus of "Just as I Am" (not that any of those things are bad). It is a place where Christians can come together to just live life together, where they can experience each other's lives, all the issues and the mess, the victories, and blessings. A place where people are loved.

This is also why I love working with the youth group. During the summer, especially, teens tend to have a decent amount of time on their hands, and they often choose to share that with other members of the group, daily coming together to live life together.

This model is a powerful one; one which I think we could all benefit from. That is why I encourage all of us to build relationships with the people in the next pew. People that we have perhaps only seen on Sundays before, and invite them into our lives, into the dull and mundane, into the fun and exciting, and into the love 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's surgery went so well, he was home Saturday at midnight! He is much more comfortable and doctors don't expect any more surgeries for a good while. Praise the Lord!....After a scary spell at the store, Dick Waterstraat was taken by ambulance to St. Elizabeth Hospital on Sunday afternoon. They await results of an MRI done on Monday. He is in room 4124....Continue praying for Lorena Poindexter, Janice Waterstraat, Leo Klemme, Henry Hunt, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Jeanette Tidrick, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Cirotta, 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.



July 18, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
July 21, 7:43 AM....Men's breakfast in A-2
July 21, 7 PM....Prospective minister candidate meet n' greet; philosophy of ministry presentation and question and answer period for all
July 22, AM worship hours....Prospective preacher speaks at both worship hours & teaches combined adult class
August 8-12....Vacation Bible School
August 19, 12:15 PM....Luncheon for VBS guests & Elmwood congregation

Read:
Ezra 6-Nehemiah;
Romans 8-12

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 31: July 30-August 5

Romans 8-12

“No doubt God, in searching the dark spaces of our hearts, comes across all sorts of things which we would just as soon remained hidden. But the thing he is wanting to find above all else, and which according to Paul he ought to find in all Christians, is the sound of the spirit’s groaning.” —*Paul of Everyone, Romans: Part One*, Tom Wright.

Our world is in pain. Not just the pain of sin and death, but also in the birth-pangs of God’s new creation. As Christians, as the church, we share in those birth-pangs. Awaiting our redemption, we are caught between the “already” of God’s grace and mercy in Jesus and the “not yet” of our own moral failings. Living in eager expectation of God’s setting-things-to-right, we, with the creation, groan in the very core of our souls for the final revelation of God’s glory.

How are we to live within this tension? *We are to pray.* But, not just any kind of prayer will do. Along with our more routine articulate prayers, we are to press deeply into that place where words fail us. Reaching and stretching out towards God with our groans, God meets us as his Spirit works its power in us. This is prayer beyond prayer, where we, like Jesus, plumb dark regions of heart and world full only of inarticulate sounds. Yet, the Searcher of Hearts is with us. In this cold darkness we meet our God, the Creator, at work in us and for his creation. In communion with us, this God hears and answers such groaning prayers. This is our challenge. We are to be caught up in prayer that is full of the loving, groaning, and redeeming work between the Father and his Spirit. Groaning our way into God’s future as we shoulder the vocation of this kind of prayer, we join our God’s Spirit as it broods over the deep in new acts of creation in and for this world.

—David Hunt

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

 **Elmwood**
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