



Take a Break!

Honestly, it is summer and that is the mode we seem to be in. Vacations are generally taken during the summer, especially for those who have school-aged children or younger. If we are being brutally honest, when we vacation, we often take a break from God at the same time we break from the routines of work, school, etc. This is not news to you, but summer is also the time that many of us take a break from the routine and go to summer camps, do mission work, etc. Many are often surprised/amazed/impressed with the changes that have taken place in the individuals when they return from these spiritual adventures. Time away from the phone, TV, computer, daily drama, etc., can be very refreshing for the soul.

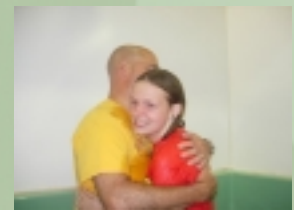
Question: when was the last time you took a break with the Lord? I know some of you would really like to go with the teens and the rest of us when we go to Cincinnati to work with the inner-city kids and when we go to Spring Mill, but your schedule just won't allow it. So how about taking a day off with the Lord? A couple hours? Even a few minutes each day with the Lord will refresh your soul. Bill Hybels wrote a book several years ago, *Too Busy Not to Pray* and he develops this concept well...the book has been reprinted and revised and is still selling well – the message is needed!

Way before Hybels' book, Jesus showed His disciples the same truth, "*He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone*" (Matthew 14:23), and "*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there*" (Mark 1:35). Jesus didn't do this just to set a good example while on earth, he was fully human; he knew what it was like to get hammered by the world – he needed a break and to be refreshed in the Spirit by the Father. I don't know what time you have available, but you and I need that too! Take a break!
– Lee



Last Friday, July 20, two of our youth were baptized while attending Spring Mill Bible Camp.

Sarah Han will be a senior at Frontier High School. Sarah is one of our "Brookston crew" and she loves gymnastics and is a gymnastics instructor. Sarah's sister, Kim, is an active member of our CSC group. She lives at 2872 E. 850 S., Brookston 47923. Phone: 765-563-8601. Congratulations, Sarah, on your decision to make Jesus Lord of your life!



Brittany Nelson is the foster daughter of Lee and Sharon Porter. She loves music and most sports. Brittany will be a freshman at West Lafayette Senior High School. Her address is 2209 Miami Trail, West Lafayette 47906. Phone: 765-463-6993. Congratulations, Britt, on your new life in Christ.

VBS • August 8-12

August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM
August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM
August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM



The deadline for pre-registration is August 1. You may register online or contact Michelle Robson. We need 6 more volunteers for crew leaders (someone to lead 3-5 children around to activity stations). If you are donating or lending any supplies please have them at the building by August 1. On July 28 and August 4 we will be at the church preparing decorations and the props. All are welcome to help. Bring your lunch and join us at 12:00 noon.

—Michelle Robson

We still need:

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

Youth in Action

This year the **Youth in Action**, held at the Okolona Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky, will be **August 10-12**. The theme is *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it"* with speakers Wiley Lowe and David Skidmore, and worship led by Deeper Still. If you are interested in going contact Lynae Stafford at 474-8478 ASAP.



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 55th Anniversary!



Pete & Vernell Swank will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this Thursday, July 26. Now retired from farming, they live at 3219 Thomas Dr., Lafayette 47909. Congratulations Swanks!

Thank You!

Dear church family:

Thank you for your prayers and support when our mother died. And thanks for all your hard work in moving us here from Pennsylvania. The "welcome gifts" were so appreciated. What a great Christian family we have at our church. In Christian love,
Jan Lucas & Eugene Zinn

Recently Engaged!



Josh Hunt (son of Dave & Rose) and Amanda Stoops were recently engaged. They plan an August 2, 2008 wedding. Both are going to school and working full time in Indianapolis. Congratulations, Josh and Amanda!

Suzanne Fournier and Chris Macaluso were also recently engaged. They plan a July 12, 2008 wedding in California. Congratulations Suzanne & Chris.

July 22, 2007

Class: 177 Worship: 256

Contribution: \$7,495

Budget: \$8,550



Skills

The theme for this year's camp at Spring Mill was "Whose Life is it Anyway?" and we discussed the importance of giving of our lives to God, since our lives belong to him already.

There was, of course, a time for the campers to write down the areas with which they struggled in their lives, and to give them to God. Many campers went to the front of the stage and dropped their cards in a black bucket. This was not really unexpected, as this is a common theme at many camps, youth rallies, and Sunday morning services.

However, later on in the week, the campers were invited once again to the stage to fill out new cards. Instead of writing down the things that they struggled with, the campers were asked to write down all of their skills and abilities that they were willing to give to God. Suggestions such as teaching and singing ability were present, but also offered as possible ideas were ability to work on computers and other "non-churchy" skills and talents. These abilities were offered to God along with the camper's struggles.

I thought that this was a great idea. For a long time, it has been the mindset of many people that they really don't have anything to offer to the church community. The simple truth is that you don't need a degree in religion to be a fruitful member in the faith community. There are many things that the Church could really use some help in, that Lee and I, though we have degrees, can't do very well (it's hard to believe, I know).

Do you like to organize? The library tends to get a little disorderly every couple of months. Do you like to cook? There are a lot of people that for one reason or another would appreciate an occasional meal (trust me; you do NOT want me doing that ministry). Maybe you like kids; offering free babysitting to members of the church (or to the community around you!!) so that the parents can go grocery shopping or have a night out is a great way to use your passions to help others.

This is also what we are attempting to do with the SHAPE program; we don't want anybody to volunteer for something that they don't really want to do; that makes it difficult on all parties involved. With a congregation the size of Elmwood, there are enough people, with enough different interests and passions that many things can be accomplished simply by doing something you love to do, and would do anyway. Maybe you think you have a weird useless skill... maybe your skill is playing Parcheesi... maybe you could start a Parcheesi league and invite church members, and non-church members as a way to introduce people to Christian community. Everyone is important and everybody's skills are valuable!

-Phil

Prayer concerns....

Dick Waterstraat has appointments with two different doctors to determine the causes of recent health problems. Janice will also be evaluated for recent heart problems....Continue praying for Lorena Poindexter, Leo Klemme, Henry Hunt, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Jeanette Tidrick, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Cirola, 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.



Susan Huff's grandfather, **Sardis Thorne, 92**, died Monday, July 16, in Tuscumbia, Alabama. He had been in failing for some months. Susan and Jimmy were able to attend the funeral on Wednesday in Alabama.

Becky Pitt's brother-in-law, **Jeff Wochinski, 44**, died unexpectedly on Sunday afternoon, July 22, at their home in Arlington Heights, Illinois. After an autopsy, his funeral will be later this week. He left his wife, Tammy, and three children aged 15, 13, and 10 years old.

Our sympathies to both of these families on the loss of their loved one.



July 25, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
July 28, noon....VBS Work Session
July 29, AM worship hours....Cody Sipe preaching
August 4, noon....VBS Work Session
August 8-12....Vacation Bible School
August 19, 12:15 PM....Luncheon for VBS guests & Elmwood congregation

Read:
*Psalms 93-111; Romans
13-16; I Corinthians 1-2*

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 32: August 6-12

Romans 14

Recently my father had knee replacement surgery. His 77-year-old knee was shot. His back, hip, legs, and feet were hurting. The doctor had never seen such a bad case. Poorly functional body-parts puts pressure on the remaining body to compensate, creating pain, abnormal wear-and-tear, and fatigue, resulting in even more deterioration.

In Romans 14:10, Paul writes, *"Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we all stand before the judgment seat of God,"* and later in v.13, *"Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."* It is so easy to judge, but it is hard to be an example. Our disapproval of others is like my Dad's knee; it makes us limp, forcing the Body of Christ to compensate. We deteriorate. We experience pain. We cause pain. Judgment is solely God's prerogative. Our calling is to be shining examples, placing no hindrance in the way of others. It is not hard to understand our desire to judge. It's easy. We all sin, lack understanding, and display unfaithfulness. It's a rich target environment. It's like shooting fish in a barrel. Yet, Paul challenges each of us to a more difficult "judgment." He calls each of us to a deep and risky self-assessment. Am I the problem? And if so, I must change, clearing from my life anything that blocks my brothers and sisters on their journey with God in Christ. God alone is Judge, yet *"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him"* John 3:17. If this is the way of our God and his Son, it must also be our way. Therefore, we must clear the road. Roadwork is hot, dirty, and backbreaking work, but it must be done. And, oh yes, even fish in a barrel are safe from a well-worn and tired road crew.

—Dave Hunt

This Week's Highlight: Misc. news items



Underprivileged children in our community are hit with the same school costs that all other children are, but it's tough for them to get what they need. Could you open your heart (and your wallet) to provide some of these items? There's a collection box in the Farris Foyer for you to put your supplies in, then in 2 weeks we'll transfer all items to the Salvation Army for distribution. Supplies needed include:

- Lafayette 2nd & 3rd grade tablets
- Lafayette primary paper tablets
- Prang oval paints-8 pan
- #2 pencils
- Ball point pens, not retractable
- Plain pocket folder, no prongs
- Gallon size freezer bags with zip top
- Colored pencils, 12 count/24 count
- Fiskars scissors, 5-inch pointed
- Glue sticks
- Letter sheet & penmanship tablets
- Pedigree pink erasers
- Washable markers
- Dry erasable markers, fine point
- Two-pocket folders with prongs
- Quart size freezer bags with zip top
- Highlighter-markers (yellow)
- Thin calculators
- Ball point pens, erasable
- 1 inch 3-ring binders

New and gently used clothing for students aged 4 to 18 is also needed. Many thanks for your generosity.

4-H Participants Receive Awards!

Although all information is not in for Elmwood's 4-H participants, here is what we have:

Rachel Stafford's projects & ribbons:

Foods: white cake - Blue Star; frozen pizza - Blue Star; cake decorating - Blue Star

Sewing: Blue; Fashion review: Honor group

Water color: Reserve Champion; Scrapbook: Reserve Champion; Photography: Blue Star

Nelson Tilley's projects & ribbons:

Sports poster: Blue Ribbon with honors; Computers: Blue Ribbon; Model: Blue Ribbon

Madison Tilley's projects & ribbons:

Sewing: Blue Ribbon; Plastercraft: Champion/Blue Ribbon; she also showed a rabbit: Blue Ribbon for best of breed and brown ribbon for fur (it was a bad hair day!)