



Are You Ready?

Okay, the question of the week for many of you to ask me is, "Are you ready for the wedding?" Before I answer that, let me take you on a trip. You get married, you plan the perfect life, you start your family...then the first day of school (preschool, kindergarten, whatever) comes and you say, "NO!" I can't let my baby go! A little time passes and the therapy gets you past the separation anxiety, but then it is time to send them on to Jr. High and then Sr. High and you know there are rowdy kids out there and some of them have bad attitudes that might affect your baby. Once again you say, "NO!" Of course, you and your "baby" make it through and then comes college...but that's in another town (and another world). Once college is over, you consider your "baby" an adult and the apron strings seem to have been cut – or so I thought.

Am I ready for Jessica to marry Nick? It is part of the growing up process. It is why we have children; to get them to the point of standing on their own two feet. I look forward to having grandkids in a few years, but honestly, NO I'm not ready for August 11. I'm not doing the ceremony, not sure I could, I get to just be the daddy and walk my "baby" down the aisle. Does parenting get easier?

As your youth minister, I'm here to help you through some of these tough times. Baptism brings joy, but it reminds us the "babies" are growing up! Senior Sunday is tough for all parents and the youth minister gets to live through it every year. We cry out to God and say, "It isn't fair, it doesn't get any easier." I think God responds and says, "No, parenting doesn't get any easier...but I'm still proud to be your Father." He parents us through the stages of life, just as we do our own kids. I don't know about you, but it brings me comfort and peace that God is there with us during each of the steps we take in life. He will be there with Jessica and me as we walk down the aisle. He never promised to make things easier, but He does promise to always be with us...and He will help me be ready. – Lee

Farewell to the Sipes

The Elmwood congregation has been richly blessed in recent months by Cody Sipe's preaching. His sermons have been challenging and inspiring. It seems all good things come to an endand so it is with Cody's preaching.

This **Sunday, August 5**, will be Cody's final message to us. He has taken a job at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, where he will be teaching three graduate classes in kinesiology. He is excited to begin work on Monday, August 13. Jenny and the children will stay a little longer as they wait on the sale of their home.

We know God will bless them richly wherever they go. Charlotte's gain is our loss. Jenny and Cody have both been instrumental in teaching children's classes as well as adult classes and so many other aspects of Elmwood's family life. We will miss them terribly.

This Sunday after the evening service—during our regular first Sunday Finger Foods—we will remember their many contributions to our congregation and enjoy the fellowship. Bring some food to share and come be a part of the farewell to the Sipes...**Cody, Jenny, Carter, Cassie, Caden, & Colson**. Our love and God's blessings go with you!

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



If you have not registered your children for VBS, please call Michelle Robson (583-3106) ASAP. **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 4. On **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. We still need:

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

Also, if you have any western items that could be loaned to us to decorate the classrooms, that would be most appreciated. Thanks for all your help. *-Michelle Robson*

PLEASE NOTE: The Vacation Bible School CD's, "See & Play" are missing. They are in a box (50 in the box) and were last seen in the teachers' workroom. If you have seen them, please call Michelle Robson at 583-3106.



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.



Happy 57th Anniversary!



Bernie & Armilda Follick will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary this Saturday, August 4. Now retired from Purdue, they enjoy spending the month of July and most of August fishing in Minnesota! Congratulations!

Thank You!

Thank you for all the lovely cards that were sent for my 94th birthday. I appreciated them so much.
-Dovie Hurst

Youth in Action

This year **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.

July 29, 2007

Class: 165 Worship: 253

Contribution: \$4,274

Budget: \$8,550

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In the Know

In the movie "The Man Who Knew Too Little," Bill Murray portrays a man, "Wally," who signs up to participate in an audience participation theatre, but, unbeknownst to him, gets involved in an actual adventure. He doesn't know the guns are real, and the danger is imminent as he continues to believe that he is part of the show.

This knowledge, though comically misguided, changes the way that Wally reacts to the things that are happening to him. When he is in an extremely difficult situation he acts as if he were a secret agent, believing that no real harm can come to him since, after all, it is all just make-believe anyway. This idea intrigues me.

What if we all were part of an audience participation theatre? Would it change the way that you handled everyday interactions? Should it change the way that you see yourself, and others? Would we be more heroic? If everything were fake, would we be able to act in a manner in which, at the end of the day, everyone goes home happy?

The truth of the matter is that no, not everything is fake; we live in a very real place and time. But we do know something. Or perhaps, more accurately, we know someone.

As Christians, we have entered into a relationship with the creator and sustainer of the universe, the LORD of Heaven and Earth, and our ever-faithful father. But does this change us? Should it? The early church Christians were encouraged by Paul to let their relationship with God change their lives.

In Galatians, Paul reminds his readers that their relationship with God means that they no longer act in the way that they used to when they were enslaved to other things "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again?" (Gal 4:8,9 NRSV).

Again, in Romans, Paul encourages his readers to turn away from sin. "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:6,11 NRSV).

We have knowledge that can and should change our lives, drastically altering the way that we see God, those around us, and ourselves. Will we let this knowledge change our behaviors this week?

Other passages to consider: Eph 6:9, Rom 5:1-5.

-Phil

Prayer concerns....

Valley Stockton was in Home Hospital last week with congestive heart problems. She is now at home recuperatingOn Friday Sara Postlethwait had a stint inserted for blockage to her heart....Margie Moffitt will be consulting with an eye specialist soon in IndianapolisContinue praying for Henry Hunt, Oka LeMaster, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Cirola, 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 Bryenton in Afghanistan; Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson in Iraq; and Chris Martin, in South Korea.

4-H Participants Receive Awards!

More awards for Elmwood's 4-H participants:

James Vaught's projects & ribbons:
Aerospace: rocket construction – blue ribbon
Rocket launch – champion
Electric – blue ribbon
Woodworking – blue ribbon

Taylor Gamble's projects & ribbons:
Champion Landrace gilt
Reserve Champion Division 1 Crossbred gilt
2nd place Crossbred barrow
4th place Crossbred barrow

Kayleigh Gamble also participated in Mini 4-H making Rice Krispie treats (they are given participation ribbons in Mini 4-H).



August 1, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
August 4, noon....VBS Work Session
August 5, AM worship hours....Cody Sipe preaching
August 8-12....Vacation Bible School
August 19, 12:15 PM....Luncheon for VBS guests & Elmwood congregation

Read:
Esther–Job 12

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 33: August 13-19

Esther's Story

May I suggest reading the book of Esther from *The Message* to capture the ambiance of an interesting story that would make a great Hollywood type movie. The story's setting is 5th Century B.C. when Israel was in Persian captivity but the events are timeless and could easily be from the pages of a current Middle East newspaper.

As the story goes, the King was searching for a young virgin to be his queen. Esther was brought before him and of course, in Hollywood style, he fell in love with her and she was chosen to be his Queen. Now if the story ended there, it would be a little boring. This story is far from boring! It has a love story, drama, good versus evil, cruelty, bloodthirsty revenge, and best of all – a happy ending.

It has always been of great interest to me how the book of Esther made it into the Bible. The name "God" is never mentioned and it seems the only real purpose of the book is to explain the tradition of Purim (that Jews still practice today). Looking deeper, there are several lessons we can learn from the Book of Esther.

1. God can use us in whatever situation or position we are in.
2. God uses men AND women to get the job done.
3. God can redeem people with unpleasant pasts and use them to advance His plans.

I consider Esther an inspiration to all women who try to live a Godly life. She allowed God to use her courage, wisdom, resourcefulness, self-control and faith to achieve His goal. How do we know that God is not looking to one of us for the same purpose?

–Jean Dilling

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	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000
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	Staff Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

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