



Incomplete Circle

Joyce and I were just pulling into Lowe's hardware store when the incomplete circle became immediately apparent to me. There, at the edge of the parking lot, were approximately 30 people all simply standing around. Joyce, the woman whose house we were currently working on in New Orleans last week, told me that these men were waiting for work. The disaster that took place in the Southeast over a year ago is even more tragic than most realize. The streets are filled with houses that have been untouched since the hurricane hit even though many people desperately desire to rebuild. So . . . there is plenty of work to be done, a strong desire to have it done, and plenty of people to do it, the houses remain virtually untouched. There is a break somewhere in the circle, and the result is tragic.

Your Purdue students spent hours every day last week representing Christ and Elmwood in a way that would please even the strongest opponent to a campus ministry Spring Break mission campaign. They set about their task with energy and a great attitude and I, for one, am very proud that I was able to share this experience with them. Honestly, the diligence with which they worked and the warmth with which they embraced new students and New Orleans residents was amazing.

Watching them I came to realize why the circle in New Orleans was incomplete; I came to realize what it is that is missing, why things are not getting better. *There was no Christian community.* None among the builders and contractors, none between the hardware store and the plumbers, and none amidst the insurance companies and the families devastated by the tragedy. Instead there are contractors taking money but doing no work, hardware stores gouging prices of needed products, and insurance companies not willing to pay out what they owe.

We, at Elmwood, have an incredible opportunity (and responsibility) to share with the world the greatest collective testimony we have: *community.* With God's help, we can demonstrate to the world how drastically different things like conflict or even disaster can be when the people involved live under the rule of the Lord. I encourage you to testify to this truth with your actions and your love for one another this week . . . you will be proud to know that your students did *last week.* ~Dan

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

Elmwood's Budget



It's that time of year again. Well, yes, it's income tax time but it's also budget time for Elmwood. Our fiscal year is the twelve month period July thru June. While tedious and time consuming to some, budgeting is a necessary part of the Lord's work for Elmwood. Bill Hodges has started the process by requesting anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year from all ministry areas. If you are a ministry leader and have not been contacted please see Bill. Once all the numbers are assembled the Deacons and Elders will review before presentation to the congregation.

This is a critical time for ensuring that the ministries that we support fulfill God's purpose for us as a congregation. Last year our budget was \$ 490,000. That's a lot of God's money that he has entrusted us with.

The apostle Paul tells us in Second Corinthians 9 that we are to give as we have decided in our hearts. That means our giving is based on prayerful planning not on a whim. Likewise, we have the obligation as the church to plan how we're to spend the gifts we receive. I say obligation but it is really a privilege to be entrusted with God's money.

This is a duty that is not to be taken lightly. Our eternal destiny, in part, depends on how effectively we use the gifts God gives us. *-Joe Mathews*

"What Every Woman Should Know About Finances" Seminar

The Women's Ministry is hosting an educational evening on financial topics for women on Saturday, April 14 from 7-9 PM at the Elmwood building. God calls us to be good stewards of the resources He has given us. Come with your questions and we will all learn together. The program is free but pre-registration is necessary. Please indicate on your yellow card on Sunday if you plan to attend.

Thank You!

A special thanks to the family at Elmwood Church for the many cards and prayers during my hospital stay and return home. Thanks to you, my friends.

-Dick Waterstraat

To the Sunday Women's Class:

The treasure hunt that you sent me on March 18 was delightful! The letter opener, the mirror, the touching cards, the bracelet, and the earrings—each was a fun, valuable, genuine memory of the real treasures, each of you. I especially appreciate the generous gift to Eternal Threads. You should know that I wore the bracelet and earrings the very next day. Thank you for your love and for enriching my spiritual life each Sunday morning. We have been together seeking God's will through His Word, and you will be greatly missed!

-Lisa

Support for the Military

Our military families ask for the congregation's prayers and appreciate any correspondence you might want to send to their loved one. **Jeremy Crable** is in Afghanistan and his mailing address is: Jeremy Crable, Alpha Co. Task Force Lightning 513 MI, CJTF-76, Bagram Air Force Base APO, AEO 09354. Email address: Crablemc69@aol.com. **Philip Devine** is presently in Kuwait for 2 weeks before going on to Ramadi. His address: LCpl Devine, 2/5 G Company 2nd Plt, Unit 40365, FPO-AP 96426-0365. We pray for God's protection and blessings on them as they serve our country.

Can You Help with LTC?

Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) will soon be here. Our youth needs your help. If you can be in Indianapolis at the Marriott East on April 6 or 7, we are in need of judges and door monitors. Our students are participating in Puppets, Drama, Large Group Singing, Small Group Singing, Bible Bowl, Scrapbooks, Bulletin Boards, and Christian Art at the convention. If you can help with any of these areas, please let Lee Porter, Rose Hunt, Barb Tilley, or Phyllis Simmerman know.

Trinity Mission's Annual Walk "Walk a Mile in My Shoes"

When: **Saturday, March 24, 8:30-11:00 AM, 1224 Union St., Lafayette, Trinity Mission Thrift Store.** Get pledges-Walk for a Great Cause. Donations will be partially matched. Proceeds benefit the residents of Trinity Mission. Call 742-1060 and ask for Todd for more information.



Mary Kay Ciesielski's mother, **Wanda Peterson, 82**, died Wednesday, March 14, in South Bend, Indiana. She had been in failing health for several years. Her funeral was Saturday. Our sincere sympathies to Mary Kay, her father, two sisters, and brother.



Jessica Brooke Porter & Nickolas Edwin Hottmann are getting married on August 11, 2007, in Oxford, Michigan. Please save the date.

SNOW SERVANTS...

A big thank you to the snow servants who provided services this winter through several snow falls and the blizzard of 2007. Thanks to the Scott Baker family, Kyle Banter family, Tom Miller family, Alison Ruhl and Will Wade.

It's a Girl!

Former Elmwood members, **Martin & Carrie Doyle** recently added **Evelyn Nancy** to their family. Evelyn was born Sunday, March 18. She joins big brothers, Jordan and Stuart. Congratulations, Martin and Carrie.

March 18, 2007

Class: 188 Worship: 265

Contribution: \$6,703

Budget: \$8,550

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Unstoppable

Midwest Leadership Training for Christ Convention Update – April 6 – 8, 2007

Many have tried, many are trying, and more will try to hinder the cause of Christ, however, the news of Jesus Christ is unstoppable... unlike the past leaders of other world religions, the head of the church, Jesus... is not in the tomb... Jesus is alive... Jesus is unstoppable.

S.O.S. – REALLY!

Help! I realize that Phyllis has mentioned this in another place in the newsletter, but we need your Help! Registration has officially closed and Elmwood is behind. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first year we have had difficulty getting adults to support our students' efforts by signing up to be judges and door monitors. The way LTC is set up (totally volunteer base); each congregation supplies judges for each event they have students registered to participate. We have students registered in 11 different convention event settings, so we need 11 judges. This would require you to attend a brief judges meeting and then to judge the participation of students in the given event you have chosen to judge. With the exception of Bible Bowl, most judges serve for less than one and one half hours – our students are worth it, please sign up! Door monitors (we need 4) simply ensure that the students are able to have no distractions from outside the room during their presentations. You would simply be responsible for keeping the doors open or closed at the appropriate times – the room monitors will tell you when, and you would also be a reminder to the people in the hall to keep the noise level down. Once again, these people serve for about 90 minutes maximum...we can even find you a chair to sit in if you would like.

Last week I mentioned that we also need help with running several events...the need still exists. Sarah Bird is the Puppet Event Coordinator for the convention and she will need three or four people to help her run the event on Friday night. Mariah Wise is our Live Modern Drama Event coordinator for the convention and she needs three or four people to help her on Friday night. Finally, Tom and Beth Miller will be coordinating the Group Singing Events on Saturday afternoon and they will need three or four people to help them at each of the singing event times – one session for Small Group Singing and one session for Large Group Singing. These people will be responsible to keep groups informed of when they will be participating and will coordinate with the judges and door monitors to help keep things running smoothly. If you can help, please call Phyllis, Rose, Barb or me now! Thanks in advance!!! – Lee



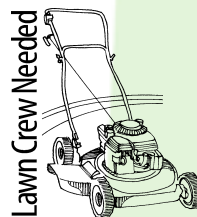
Steve Curwick, friend of Stephanie Barrett, was baptized Sunday morning, March 18, after much thought and prayer and study. Steve works for Fairfield Manufacturing and has two children, daughter, **Chaunci**, in the 7th grade at Wainwright Middle School, and son, **Chad**, a 4th grader at Cole Elementary. Steve's address is P.O. Box 57, Stockwell, IN 47983. Phone: 426-5063. Steve, we commend you on your decision to make Jesus Lord of your life and welcome you to God's family at Elmwood!

Prayer Concerns...

Bob Stafford will have back surgery this Friday, March 23, at Home Hospital....**Connie Nicholson** will have throat surgery March 27....**Oscar Miller** will have knee surgery (6th time) soon....Continue praying for **Bud Darby, Terry Spenard, Sean High, Dawn Barrett, Dick Waterstraat, Mary Tavana, Sarah Watts, Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Julie Lichty, Annie Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Kaden Koebcke, 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); **Philip Devine** (in Kuwait for 2 weeks, then to Ramadi); **Joshua Thompson** (grandson of Mary Lou Baugh in Iraq), **Jon Kiefner** (Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq); and **Amanda Martin** (South Korea:).

Can you help?



We need people who would be interested in taking over the mowing responsibilities for this spring and summer at Elmwood. Harold Riddle and John Marks have handled it the past two years and would like a break. If you can help, please let Chad Pitt know or call the church office.



March 21, 6 PM...Good \$ense budget class

March 21, 7 PM...Bible Classes for all

March 25, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet

April 6-8...LTC in Indianapolis at Marriott Hotel

Read:
Deut. 31-34; Psalm 41-55;
Acts 27-28; I Thess. 1-3

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 14: April 2-8

I Thessalonians

Paul wrote his first epistle to the young Thessalonian Christians. He helped establish this church while on his second missionary trip (Acts 16-18). This was a rather difficult period in Paul's ministry. Just prior to Thessalonica, Paul had been imprisoned and then asked to leave Phillippi. He had to flee Thessalonica too, due to an angry mob. This mob even went as far as Berea to further harass Paul.

After a lukewarm response in Athens, Paul arrived in Corinth, the place where I Thessalonians is written. By this time, he was probably pretty discouraged. Paul needed some good news; he needed to hear that his work had not been in vain (chapter 3:5). He needed affirmation; affirmation that the gospel is powerful, that the Lord would water the seeds he had planted, and *that* the Holy Spirit is able to change young Christian lives. This is exactly the news that Timothy brought back to Paul (chapter 3: 6-10). And so this letter is full of thanksgiving for the church in Thessalonica. Why? Not because they were perfect but because of their "work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by the hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (chapter 1: 3b). A church in which faith, love, and hope, produces work, labor and endurance – now that was a church to lift Paul's spirit. That was a church that could be an inspiration, even to us today.

– Yssa DeWoody