



Here and Now How?

Sunday's sermon reminded all of us to not worry about or live in the future. It reminded us of the importance of trusting God and living in the "now," the present moment. It was a much needed message. Many of us spend the majority of our days thinking about the very next thing on our schedule or focusing on next week, next month or next year. So the reminder to live in the present moment is always one that is appropriate.

Equally important is *how* we live in the present moment. Many of my friends in high school and college lived in the present moment, but they did not choose the best way to do so. "Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry" was the only Bible verse they had memorized, and when they used it, it was always out of context. They did not choose to live God's way. They did not choose to embrace the present moment with the wisdom of Scripture. They wanted instead to live life to the "fullest."

Living life to the fullest, however, is incredibly different than what my friends were doing. Living life to the fullest is living in the present moment *God's way*. A writer and theologian named Anthony Hoekema put it this way: "One should live in such a way that the past and the future bear weight on the present."

That's a pretty insightful look at the present moment. Living God's way means living in such a way as to remember the event of the cross while simultaneously being completely confident in His return. So, let's live in the present moment, but let's make sure to do it God's way. -Dan

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

Elmwood Objectives

- Knowing God and making God known.
- Relevant Bible study, visionary leadership, congregational development, assembly leadership, equipping for ministry, staff team coordination.

These areas are covered within the SHAPE Program the elders have introduced. The one missing part is greater volunteer participation.

We have five areas with deacon leadership: *Body Life*-David Weckerly, *Outreach*-Josh Boyd, *Worship*-Jim Moore; *Education*-Joe Ruhl; *Resources*-Chad Pitt.

Our *Youth Minister*, Lee Porter, *Associate Minister*, Phil Travis, and *Campus Minister*, Dan Cooke, lead our student ministries.

In addition: Men's Ministry Leader-Kevin Walters; Building Superintendent-Greg Sutherlin; Treasurer-Bill Hodges; Food Pantry Manager-John Stafford; Special Events Coordinator-Dorothy Miller; there is also a Women's Ministry and a Prayer Ministry. Each ministry needs helpers. You can be a part of our moving forward by getting involved.

-Don Vice



Everyone is invited to a "come 'n go" bridal shower for **Jessica Porter & Nick Hottmann**. It will be in the home of Chris Sutherlin, 2805 Union St., Lafayette, on **Saturday evening, June 2, from 6:30-8:30**. Hostesses are Chris Sutherlin, Cheryl Woody, and Kelsey Sutherlin.



Video & audio volunteers needed

We are in need of volunteers to run the laptop computer for powerpoint slides and the sound equipment for those speaking and leading in worship on Sunday mornings. We especially need two video people for 1st service, and two for the 2nd service. We also need two people for the PA system for the 2nd service. If you can help, contact the church office, Jimmy Huff (video) or Farrell Simmerman (audio). Thanks for considering this as part of your ministry to the congregation.

Haitian Bibles



Jimmy and Susan Huff are collecting funds to be used for the purchasing of Haitian Creole Bibles. The Bible has only recently been published in the spoken language of Haiti, and satisfies a great need to those seeking God in Haiti who cannot afford to purchase a Bible. These Bibles will be distributed by our brothers in the northern Haiti churches of Christ to those in need of one. If you would like to make a contribution for this effort, you can mail a check to the church office by the end of May. Please make the checks payable to Elmwood Church of Christ, and if you mail it to the church office, include a note saying that this check is for the Haitian Bible Fund.



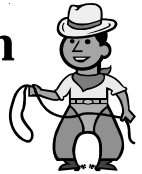
Graduation Open Houses

- Jesse Jones** • May 26, 3-7 PM • (home) 10820 S. St. Rd. 43, Brookston
- Angela Levick** • May 26, 4-7 PM • (home) 501 Davis St., Brookston
- Ben Stafford** • May 26, 4-7:30 PM • (home) 408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette
- Seth & Cody Mullen** • May 27, 12-4 PM • (home) 4418 Lakevilla Dr., West Lafayette
- Rebecca & Renea Vaughn** • May 27, 1-4 PM • (home) 436 N. County Line Rd. E., Lafayette
- Melissa Willison** • May 27, 2-6 PM • (home) 7616 Posey Ln., Lafayette
- Dan Cable** • June 9, noon to whenever! • (home) 3581 W. St. Rd. 18, Delphi
- Rachel Walters** • June 9, 1-4 PM • (home) 936 Brookridge Ct., Lafayette



Gayle and Lisa Crowe will be moving to an apartment the first part of June. Their mailing address will remain the same: 2000 Mallory Lane, Suite 130-153, Franklin, TN 37067. They have new cell phone numbers. Gayle: 615-354-4956 and Lisa: 615-354-4957.

Vacation Bible School



We want to corral 70 kids at **Avalanche Ranch**. **YOU** can make it happen. If you'd like to help publicize this great adventure or assist in any other way contact Michelle Robson at 583-3106.

Attention Parents

Since May 27 is the 4th Sunday of the month, there will be no Children's Church for grades 1-5.

—Joe Ruhl

May 20, 2007

Class: 182 Worship: 232

Contribution: \$6,289

Budget: \$8,550

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I'm Back!

Well, it's been quite awhile since I have been to Elmwood, I had hoped to visit several times, but the scheduling never seemed to work out quite right. It may have been a while, but it sure is good to be back. Last year I really enjoyed my time here, getting to know so many of you. Many of you were very kind to me last summer as you opened your houses and your hearts to me. This congregation has inspired me to be a more giving person, as you all give of yourselves on such a regular basis.

When Lee called me to talk about the possibility of me coming back, I was not ready for it! I had been looking forward to a fairly relaxing summer, working in the Tech department at Rochester, and spending time with my fiancée, but when I was offered the chance to work here at Elmwood again, it was difficult to resist! Already you all are back at it again, opening your homes to me and welcoming me back as a family member; and it's very much appreciated!

As many of you know, I will be filling in the gaps as Elmwood continues to look for a full-time pulpit minister, and I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve God, and this congregation in this way.

I am looking forward to the time I will be able to spend with you all in the coming months, and if I didn't get the chance to know you last year, maybe we can get connected this year!

-Phil Travis

I would also like to offer special thanks to:

Kevin Walters
Greg Sutherlin
Don Vice

These men all took time this past Saturday to work on the basement of the Youth House, and they got a lot of work done! Thanks again!

Prayer Concerns....

Peter Bell had major heart surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on Tuesday....**Bill Adams** had a shunt removed and another one put in his head at IU Medical Center in Indianapolis on Monday**Oscar Miller** is scheduled to come home Wednesday afternoon**Hattie Coffel** is at home recovering from a skin reaction to a plastic splint that was on her leg for a fracture....**Lorena Poindexter**, Carolyn Burrell's sister-in-law, will have surgery soon for cancer....**Jeanette Tidrick**, Harry's mother, is recovering from a broken hip at Regency Place....**David Perkins**, Lori Miller's brother, will have a biopsy on a tumor in his lung next week....**Georgia Woodland**, Annie Crowder's sister, is not doing well after recent surgery....**Virginia Webb**, Annie Crowder's son, Tom's, mother-in-law, has inoperable cancer and chemotherapy is not helping....Continue praying for **Kathy Ciota, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Jo Gelfand, Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Valley Stockton, Paul & Argie Verett, Kaden Koebecke, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Brian Guthrie** in Qatar, Persian Gulf; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson** (*grandson of Mary Lou Baugh*), and **Jon Kiefner** (*Amanda Guthrie's brother*) in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

Food Finders Food Bank Needs Help

Food Finders Food Bank is seeking regular volunteers and groups to sort product mornings or afternoons Monday-Friday. Groups of 8-10 adults are needed on Saturdays for one-time sorting. Volunteers are also needed to help with landscaping (riding mower and gas provided). Call or email Kitty Purcell at 471-0062 or kpurcell@foodfinders.org if interested.



May 23, 6 PM... Good Sense class meets

May 23, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

June 2, 6:30-8:30 PM...Bridal shower for Jessica Porter & Nick Hottmann at the Sutherlins' home

Read:
Psalms 75-92;
Hebrews 13; Matthew 1-5

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 23: June 4–10

Hope

“I hope you feel better soon,” “I hope to see you Sunday,” “I hope you have a safe trip.”

Hope. The word “hope” is a well used word in my vocabulary. I always hope for good things to happen. But good things do not always happen. Life is not always the fair skies I hope it to be. Sometimes the future seems bleak and there doesn't seem to be a ready answer—but there is.

When I was young, I experienced a life filled with “hopelessness.” I couldn't see a happy ending to my problems. After I accepted Christ into my life as an adult, I began to have hope. Now life still wasn't without problems but what was different was that even with overwhelming struggles, I was able to either resolve the problem, or regroup, recover, and start again with hope for a better future. With age and experience, I have learned that as long as I have life in Jesus, there is hope.

A life without God is one filled with hopelessness and despair. Man cannot find in himself the answer to “Why should I keep on?” Life without God has no purpose that gives hope. God has the answer if we can only have the patience to let him work his will.

—Jean Dilling



This Week's Highlight: Faith & Honesty

Never Alone

So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." Numbers 11

Whatever else can be said about the Bible, you have to say it's honest. It's hard to imagine most religious people being willing to include these words in a sacred text, but there they are. Moses has clearly reached burnout, at least for the moment, and his frustration boils over in his conversation with God. We call conversation with God, "prayer," but only rarely do most of us muster this kind of honesty.

Now it's probably true that both God and Moses would have preferred not to have come to these words; but they do, and there is no indication that God faults Moses for bringing his pain and frustration to God. In fact, it is this very conversation that starts the tradition of elders as key leaders in the Bible. Moses feels all alone. He's being stung by all sorts of criticism, but what is truly fascinating is that rather than go toe-to-toe with his critics, Moses pours out his whole heart to God, both good and bad.

On one level, of course, we could say that Moses has simply lost it, even to the point of sounding and looking like a fool. He screams at God, as if God doesn't see what is going on, but any of us who are honest will admit that faith can indeed feel that way. Moses is not playing a game of connect the dots with giant numbers standing up in the distance to tell him his every move. Moses instead is in a relationship with God and in relationships with the people around him. Relationships are living beings all their own, and they throw surprises at you when you least expect it. For the moment, however, Moses has forgotten that he is actually not all alone, even though it feels that way. God calms Moses down by making it clear that he is not alone by calling in 70 elders to help carry the load.

It's a classic moment of faith. We hear Elijah saying the same things under the broom tree. "I'm the only one."

Another version of it is when it is pride rather than despair that leads us into the "only ones" category. The disciples brag to Jesus that they shut down a person who was casting out demons in Jesus' name because he "doesn't travel with us."

The truth is that we are never the only ones, and no disciple should ever want to be. We can isolate ourselves or feel isolated from others, but it is in those moments that we must be the most prayerful, even when our words come out confused, hurt and frustrated. Prayer opens us back up to relationship after we have concluded we are all alone, and through prayer, God finds ways to show us that we were never alone, never the only one. We are part of a vast community of people, all walking the same path and also doing it by faith, just like we are.

Probably the most important thing that elders do is to pray for us and find ways to remind us that we are not the only ones or all alone, regardless of how special we think we are or how abandoned we may feel at the moment. Elders are shepherds who roam the hillside looking for us when we have wandered off and are too knotted up inside ourselves even to scream out in raw words to God.

But regardless of how well elders do their job or not, the call is actually the same for all of us, to be people who pray, who pray with the faith of Elijah and with the honesty of Moses. God can do something with faith and honesty. He carried a whole host of people from slavery to the freedom of the promised land. He fed the hungry and parted seas and rivers. He got people home. He does the same today, maybe especially for those who think they are all alone.

—Robert Montgomery