



The Kerrigans are Here!

Actually, as I write this, Gilbert is here and Kate and Cole will be coming in on Friday evening. I know that Gilbert is excited and ready to begin his ministry with us. He is taking this week to begin to get their house organized and to start finding his way around the greater Lafayette area. Several of you have called the office and said you would be willing to take Gilbert out or have him over for a meal this week and I'm sure he will take the offer a time or two...we pray he will be here a long time, so you should have plenty of opportunity to take him and the family out to eat, or have them over to your place.

I really appreciate the suggestion sheet Josh put together in our getting ready for the Kerrigans. One thing I might just add would be that for a while that unless Gilbert or Kate address you immediately by name that you simply stick out your hand and say, "Gilbert or Kate, I'm _____. That way, you will take some of the pressure off them for learning all the names. Please remember, there are only three of them and about three hundred of us! This is certainly a time for us to remember Bill and Farrell's (and their team's) work on getting our pictorial directory done. I know it will be very helpful to the Kerrigans and it continues to be helpful to me...bet it is to you, too.

I said this Sunday, but I do pray all of us have shown our appreciation to Cody Sipe and to Josh Boyd for their great work in sharing the Word with us from the pulpit during this transitional time. I really did fear I would be preaching far more than I did. We are part of a very talented body and we are so blessed! I would like to say, "Thank You" to all of you for being understanding and supportive of me and Phil during this time. Initially, I thought the work would be shared between Dan, Phil, and me, but God had other plans for Dan, and Phil and I were left to wear some unfamiliar hats. I am more than willing and ready for Gilbert to see which of these hats fits him, but you have made the additional load a lot more bearable than it might have otherwise been. Thank you for continuing to love me and the Porter family; the past nine plus years have been a great blessing and joy.

As I mentioned earlier, Gilbert is here and it is time to move forward. I'm anxious to see what God has in store. I'm proud to be serving with you all!

– Lee

The Church is YOU!

"You can't go to church 'cause the church is you." This line from an AVB song prompts us to remember the true nature of church. Church is not a place we go; it is relationships in which we participate. In fact, the quality of our church – our congregation – might be measured by the quality of our relationships. This is affirmed by the relationship of 1 Corinthians 12 to 1 Corinthians 13. The difficulty the Corinthians were having with their use, and misuse, of spiritual gifts (and all sorts of other problems) was rooted in the fact that love – agape – for one another was not at the root of the application of their giftedness. Or, more generally, it was not at the root of their relationships with one another.

What can we say about Elmwood? Are there people among us you would call friend or best friend? Where do you go for advice? Elmwood? Google? Dear Abby? Our last (and first) NCD assessment indicated that loving relationships was a significant strength. I, for one, do not want that to change. I want us to keep deepening our relationships with one another. I believe that requires two things – trustworthiness and vulnerability. I'll develop these characteristics in future sidebars, but for the moment remember that to make the church better, more mature, more Christ-like means changing me and you. "Cause the church is you."

–Bill Bell

Campus Minister Search

With the successful conclusion of our search for a Senior Minister, we will now turn our attention to the search for a Campus Minister. A committee has been formed to aid the Elders in this search. Serving on this committee are Gina Boyd, Josh Boyd, Mindy Hart, Caitie Jones, Jim Jones, Craig Hodges, and Joe Mathews. The first meeting will be held this week. If you have any questions or comments regarding candidates for this position, please contact any of the committee members.

—Joe Mathews



Elmwood has many members and/or family and friends of members who are seriously ill or experiencing chronic health problems. All are in need of our daily prayers.

Al Dale is in serious condition at St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 2144 (cardiac care unit)....**Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** had surgery on Monday to remove her large intestine. She will be in Home Hospital for most of the week, room 3334....**Mickey Rigdon** has been diagnosed with MRSA staph infection. He is undergoing treatment at home....**Bob & Penny Stafford** left for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on Monday. Bob had an appointment on Tuesday for back problems he has had for some time....**Matt Rigdon**, Mickey & Carolyn's son, suffered a serious eye injury in a work accident, and will miss 3-4 months of work....Now off a ventilator, on Tuesday doctors hoped to be able to open a pulmonary occlusion on **Victoria Martin, Josh & Michelle's** newborn daughter. This is Phyllis Simmerman's nephew's daughter. They are at the UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama....**Sara Postlethwait** is recovering from detached tendons from her hip....**John Pippins** had a heart attack on October 21. He'll be off work for another week....**David Henke** suffered a torn bicep and torn rotator cuff recently while working on his car....Continue praying for **Max Houlton, Beth Miller, Delpha Allen, Ellen Raguette, Chuck Smith, Valley Stockton, Dick Waterstraat, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Eagle Bailey, Sue Sill, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebcke, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Henrietta Frampton, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine** is home!! Praise God! He will be in Lafayette this week....**Jeremy Crable, Michael Farris, & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

Help Needed with Video and Sound Equipment Sunday mornings

Volunteers are needed to do video and/or sound for Sunday morning worship hours. If you can help with either worship hour, please call the church office or email Tom Miller at mille219@purdue.edu.



Baby Shower Nov. 4, 2-4 PM



Come to the baby shower for **Kristi & Doug Smith** this **Sunday, November 4, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM**, at Becky Pitt's home, 630 Central Avenue, Lafayette. If you wish to contribute towards a group gift you may give your donation to Becky, Gina Boyd, or Dana Miller.

2008 Spiritual Adventure Articles

As in recent past years, we will continue to have the "Spiritual Adventure" articles written for the back page of our newsletter in 2008. Lee mentioned it Sunday morning and a number of people indicated on their yellow card that they would be willing to do that. If you weren't here Sunday, or you are a former Elmwood member receiving this newsletter and would like to write an article, notify the church office at 447-2874. We'll give you a passage to write on (or you may choose one of your own), and send you a letter explaining the length, when it is due, etc., in the mail.

October 28, 2007

Class: 162 Worship: 239

Contribution: \$6,355

Budget: \$10,000/week

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I spent my time this weekend at the Oasis conference where we discussed outreach to the Muslim community. It was an opportunity to learn more about the Islamic faith and to understand how to reach out to the Muslim community in our everyday lives, by simply inviting another person to share in your life.

There were many interesting facts presented during the weekend, including the fact that 85 – 90% of Muslims in America are not simply non-militant, but also want to be integrated into American culture. Sadly, we heard many accounts of Muslims that had not been asked into a Christian's home at all for years on end during their time in America.

There are many misperceptions within the Islamic community about Christianity, primarily because they do not have a chance to interact with Christians, so the images that they receive are solely from American TV, broadcasting shows like Desperate Housewives, or Britney Spears' latest mistake. Often the perception is that a white American is a Christian, so many people who are acquainted with neither America nor Christianity are often under the impression that Christians act the way they see people act on TV.

The most eye-opening portion of the weekend was when the group took a trip to a mosque and witnessed a weekly service—the equivalent of our Sunday morning services.

All of this leads to the conference's main point of the weekend, which was exploring what I call life-based ministry, which I referred to earlier. The Oasis method of ministry to Muslims is difficult, but not demanding. It does not require that one moves across the world to lead an underground church in the heart of an Islamic country, instead there is something that I know this church body can do, because I've experienced it!

The way that the Oasis group recommends ministering to the Muslim community in America is quite simple. One must only strike up a conversation with a Muslim, and become a friend.

Perhaps opening your home to a person from another country and another religion is a difficult thing to conceive of. I would encourage you to start with something perhaps a little easier. Inviting Gilbert, Kate, and Cole into your home would be an excellent ministry to them, as well as a great way to expand your personal ministry to those around you!

Welcoming the Kerrigans Potluck Dinner, Nov. 4

The Kerrigans have arrived—well, Gilbert has, and Kate and Cole will join him on Friday! To give them a warm Elmwood welcome, we are having a carry-in **potluck meal at noon** after the second worship service this Sunday, **November 4**. Bring some food to share and come and visit with Gilbert, Kate and Cole.

Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution



One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. **That collection will be Sunday, November 18**. As you are planning your gift for this year, recall that Shults-Lewis provides a safe, loving environment to children who otherwise would have no home or anyone to care for their needs. Our continued support is necessary for Shults-Lewis to become more responsive in reaching out to those in need.

Mission Employment Opportunity

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services is in need of a Christian married couple to live in and supervise a residence with up to six teenagers. It is an excellent opportunity for a couple to live out their faith through a domestic mission work. Salary and benefit package includes excellent health, leave and retirement benefits. If interested contact Rob Salley, Ph.D. at (800) 462.0513 or via email at robsalley@shultslewis.org.



- Nov. 4, noon....Welcome the Kerrigans potluck carry-in meal at Elmwood in A-2
- Nov. 4, 2-4 PM....Baby shower for Kristi & Doug Smith at Becky Pitt's home, 630 Central Avenue, Lafayette
- Nov. 7, 7 PM....Bible classes

Read:
Ezekiel 22-37; Psalms 141-150; John 12-16

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 46: November 12-18

Wow! So much great information/instruction in the readings for this week. Please read all the scriptures mentioned for the weekly readings, and decide for yourself if the word *passion* applies to any or all of these. Revelation 3:15-16 reminds us that being lukewarm in our works is not pleasing to God. In fact, it is so **distasteful** that we are in danger of being “spit out” by God!

I love studying Psalms, in large part because of the *passion* displayed here. Just a casual perusal will reveal depths of sorrow, intense pleas for justice, bitter complaining, and hearts raised in joyful praise. Psalms 141-150 are full of *passion*: to deliver us from evil doers, to keep watch over our mouths and lips, pleas for God to not hide His face from us, to save us from despair, to extol Him, to bless His name forever, to sing a new song, and to praise Him.

Psalms 146-150 are my favorite 5 Psalms of the entire book. All start with “Praise the Lord,” and go on to relate many (but certainly not all) of the various ways we can give praise to our God. I believe this is what we are created to do; to *fervently, passionately*, praise Him, whether it is in song, in prayer, or in our daily walk with Him.

As we prepare to enter a new chapter in our history here at Elmwood, let us *fervently* seek out the lost, and let us *passionately* pursue our relationship with our creator. Let us never be in danger of being “spit out,” but live with a passion that proclaims to the world “We know who our Savior is, please let us introduce you to Him!”

—Farrell Simmerman

 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	<th> Staff</th> <td> City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774 </td>	 Staff	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874		

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