



Elmwood LIFE Groups—Fall 2007

Old Testament Characters

I have mentioned this before, but we are very thankful to Max Houlton for his willingness to head up our LIFE Groups for this year. Max has a lot going on right now, but he has a passion for small group ministry and he is going to help us experience some great things this year. Since we are in a transition year, we are giving people the opportunity to remain in the same groups they were in last year. If you would like to make a change, however, we will be glad to accommodate you; just let Max or me know, or call the church office. We also have some new people we need to assimilate and we have some vacancies to fill as some of our friends have moved away. LIFE Groups are very important to the body at Elmwood and we are expecting some wonderful things from our gracious God.

We are going to do our best to keep a “regular” schedule this year with the first Sunday of each month being here at the building, followed by finger foods. The remainder of the Sundays will be in LIFE Groups. Once again this year, adult LIFE Groups will be asked to rotate at the CSC to help provide food and fellowship for our college students. The Teens will also be meeting in their own groups. LIFE Group Leaders are asked to meet in the conference room across from the food pantry this Wednesday night at 8:00 to get your materials and to discuss the calendar.

Our study for the fall is “Old Testament Characters” and is focused on the “humanness” of several characters we think we are very familiar with. Let’s all look forward to God’s direction in our lives and groups as we look into the lives of these pioneers of our faith. Groups will begin meeting on September 16—the week after our “church-wide” picnic.

—Lee

New Messenger, Same Message

I recently had the opportunity to get to know Gayle Crowe. We met for lunch in Nashville. (He paid!) It was truly a blessing to get to know this servant. I was impressed with his humble spirit, his big heart, and his wisdom. It gave me the opportunity to appreciate your love for him.

As I left our lunch meeting that day a single thought kept running through my head: “*New messenger, same message.*” Over and over that thought kept running through my head.

I’m so excited to become part of the Elmwood family. I’m so excited to start this new journey with you, but remember this: I may be a new messenger, but I bring the same message. The journey may be new, but the message will remain the same. My style may be different, but the message remains the same. I may dress different, but the message will still be the same. New messenger, same message.

“*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*” Jesus replied, “*‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*”

—Gilbert

All-Church Annual Picnic this Sunday, September 9, Columbian Park



This Sunday, September 9, is the date for Elmwood's annual All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park. We'll plan to eat at 12:30. Bring plenty to share as we invite our neighbors, friends and family to join us. Come to Shelter A (big shelter nearest Home Hospital), and enjoy the food, fun, fellowship, and games.

The Man I Want To Be! September 21-23

Don't Wait! SIGN UP NOW!!!

Come join us at our Men's Retreat and learn about finding your way to a life that counts! Spend a weekend in learning, worshiping and fellowship with Christian Men who desire a higher purpose in life.

Join us at Ross Camp. Look for the signup sheets in the foyers. If you cannot attend then consider helping others attend by making a donation or helping with a scholarship. The cost covers facilities, meals and snacks during the retreat.

Cost: \$55 (overnight 2 nights), \$45 (daytime only) and \$25 for students. Make checks payable to Elmwood Church of Christ and give to Greg Sutherland. You can start a layaway plan (part now, the rest later) if you like.

Don't Wait! SIGN UP NOW!!!

Thank You!

Thanks to Farrell and Phyllis Simmerman for the work they've done in creating the updates to our picture directory. See Bill Hodges is you've not yet received an update.

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Dear Friends of Tools for Schools:

We would like to thank you for your donation and support of our Tools for Schools program. We set a record by helping 550 students with 18,040 pieces of school supplies. In these difficult times, it is wonderful to see so many in our community stepping forward to help make a difference. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

THE SALVATION ARMY, Shirley Blauvelt, Director of Social Services
Eloise Lewellen, Volunteer Coordinator, Tools for Schools



Congratulations!



Al & Anna Dale celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this Thursday, September 6! Our heartfelt congratulations on such a momentous occasion!

Community Pride

Ginger Maxwell-Spenard was recently rewarded for her work on beautifying her yard. She has been nominated for the "Planting Pride in Your Neighborhood" award. She received a letter signed by mayor, Tony Roswarski, and other city officials. On October 4th she will have lunch with all of them and the other winners. As Ginger puts it, "It's kinda like a beauty contest for yer yard!" Congratulations, Ginger!



The food pantry is in need of personal items: soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and toilet paper.

—John Stafford

September 2, 2007

Class: 137 Worship: 234

Contribution: \$9,983

Budget: \$10,000/week



An Update

Well, the semester is now in full swing, and as was the plan, I have now started to work in the campus ministry at Purdue, and it is an enjoyable experience. I thought I would let you all know about some of the things that we have done, and some of the things that are coming up in the campus ministry.

During the first week of classes, we had an event every night to welcome both newcomers and our returning students. We brought in the new semester with activities like a cook-out, a rousing game of kickball, as well as devotionals and Bible Study.

We have a lot of things planned for the semester as well. Soon we will be going on our annual Fall retreat (September 21-23) which is a time for the students at the CSC to really spend time with one another and get to know each other better. I haven't been yet, but I have heard that it is the highlight of many students' year.

We also have various activities that happen on a regular basis during the week. On Tuesdays, we have men's and women's Bible Study. Wednesdays, we have our Encounter Bible class. Thursday evenings there is an activity night at the CSC, providing a safe place for students to hang out. Saturday mornings, the CSC members take part in Men's and Women's Prayer Breakfasts.

You may be wondering how you can get involved with the campus ministry. (If you aren't wondering that, I wish you would!) It is actually not too difficult. One good way to get to know a lot of students at the CSC is to bring your LIFE group to the CSC on Sunday night. Purdue does not serve dinner on Sunday nights, so we ask LIFE groups to bring dinner, and fellowship with our students. Talk to Jimmy Huff if your LIFE group is interested (or he may talk to you!)

If you would like to get to know a student in a little more personal way, please sign up for our "Adopt-A-College Student" program. This program will allow you to meet a student, and get to know him or her. We encourage you to bring them into your home, make dinner for them, or do anything to build a relationship with them. It may be intimidating at first, but it is well worth it! Please get involved with these wonderful students! *-Phil*

Prayer Concerns....

Max Houlton will be notified of the date for his surgery this week....Bob Stafford still awaits results on recent tests....Nathan Livengood, friend of Miranda Parson, is recovering from a motorcycle accident... Continue praying for Susan Swensen, Donnie Rigdon, Carolyn Rigdon, Valley Stockton, Dick & Janice Waterstraat, 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 Farris, & Michael Bryenton in Afghanistan; Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson, and Ti Draughon (Amanda Martin's husband) in Iraq; and Chris Martin, in South Korea.

New Fall Class Offered

Women's roles in the church will be the subject of a Wednesday evening series from **September 12 through November 28**. Participants will study the major positions on this issue, including reviews of key Biblical passages. Class presentations will distill the writings of prominent authors and handouts will be provided for more detailed personal study. A short class discussion, moderated by Joe Ruhl, will follow each presentation. Contact Sue Wilder if you would like more information. Anyone interested in learning more about this topic is invited to attend.

Prayer Partners 2007

We are called to be warriors in prayer for each other! Please sign up to pray daily for a 1st-12th grader for the year. There will be a table in the Farris foyer this Sunday, September 9, with a list of students. This is a real blessing to our young people. *-Christi Branstetter*



September 5, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
September 9, noon....Annual All-church picnic at Columbian Park, Shelter A
September 12, 7 PM....New Fall Class for everyone begins: "Women's roles in the church"
September 16, 6 PM....LIFE Groups begin
September 21, 22, 23....Men's Retreat at Ross Camp

Read:
 Isaiah 27-42; Galatians 3-6
 Ephesians 1-3

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 38: September 17-23

Paul begins this letter to the church at Ephesus, "To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus." To have this reputation must have been inspiring and an encouragement to spur them on to greater heights. Again, in Ephesians 1:15-16 Paul writes, "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." It would be interesting to know just how many times these Ephesians read this letter before it was circulated to other local churches. In today's modern, fast-paced world, and the various modes of communication, it seems that letter writing is almost obsolete. However, it would be beyond words if we received a letter like this from Paul.

Reading this letter reminded me of our minister-candidates who recently presented lessons from the pulpit on faith. Two of the lessons were faith vs. fear and David and Goliath. While I was pondering over these lessons and also reading about these faithful Christians in Ephesus it caused me to think deeper about their faithfulness and how they portrayed their faith daily.

As a child of God, I often let fear overcome me and act through fear rather than faith. When this happens I have not allowed the Holy Spirit to work in my life. When I allow the Holy Spirit to work in my life I have the power to overcome and defeat all things. The Holy Spirit dwells in us to make us powerful and when we let fear overtake us we have quenched the spiritual strength that God provides and our faith has weakened.

Therefore, let us all strive to have the reputation of the Ephesian church and not allow fear to enter but allow the power of the Holy Spirit to possess us, so that we can have the faith that God wants us to have. Let us read the Ephesian letter as if Paul addressed it to us. "To the saints at Elmwood, the faithful in Christ Jesus."
 —Thelma Hoyt

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

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