



Life and Music

Have you ever noticed how much of a role music plays throughout the Bible? Music just seems to weave its way through scripture. In the Old Testament music is found in worship, in war, in victory parades, and in celebrations of different kinds. Music was even used to soothe the tormented spirit of Saul (1 Samuel 16). Many of the Psalms are directed to "the choirmaster" in their headings. Some of the Psalms even command that "a joyful noise to the Lord" (Psalm 98) be made. Music expressed almost every emotion imaginable.

The New Testament has fewer references to music, but they are still there. We find music being involved in a funeral (Matthew 9). Jesus and his disciples are found singing a hymn before their trek to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26). Paul has repeated references to "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3) throughout his letters. In Revelation we find references to singing and harps.

According to the Holman Bible Dictionary "the expression of the full range of human emotions vocally or instrumentally through the art of music was as much a part of the lives of biblical people as it is of modern times... Indeed all of life could be touched by song." I love that last sentence. My experience has been that all of life can be touched by song.

As a guitarist and a graduate of the Recording Industry program at MTSU I learned that music is about experience and memories. It is supposed to take you some place. If a song does not trigger some kind of memory, or take you some place special, then it probably will not be your favorite. Ask most people about their favorite song and there will usually be a story associated with the song. It reminds them of something, or some event, that is important to them. They heard the song when they experienced their first kiss. It takes them back to the good old days. They saw the artist play it live. It was the favorite song of a deceased loved one. Again, it is about experience and memory.

I believe that is why music plays such a prominent role in our worship to the Lord. This may also be why music can become such a divisive part of our corporate worship. Some connect with the older traditional songs because it triggers a memory, takes them back to a time of revival and growth, or they remember their grandfather leading the song when they were younger. Others connect with the newer songs because it reminds them of the experience they had at Winterfest, their baptism in the creek at the college retreat, or maybe it spoke to them during a particularly rough time in their life.

Those who like the older stuff think a 5 year old wrote some of this new stuff. Those who like the new stuff think you need a dictionary just to understand the words of the old songs. It is easy to write off those who like one style over the other, but we need to remember that music is about experience and memory. I believe our worship leaders at Elmwood do a great job of picking songs that will connect with the diversity of people sitting in our pews each Sunday.

-Gilbert Kerrigan

Stranger in a Strange Land

The following is adapted from Mike Yaconelli's book **Devotion**:

1 Peter 2:9-12: *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

This text has great imagery for the way a Christian life should look. People visiting another country do not participate in the same customs and traditions as the people around them. In the same way we are supposed to look and act differently than those people around us, choosing to be aliens in a world that indulges in sin. Living lives where we "abstain from sinful desires" is a very good thing, but to someone without our same values and priorities it could be a very strange thing as well. We may not fit in with the rest of the world; in fact we should look radically different than the world around us. This is not a bad thing though it can be difficult! So keep being strange, it's what we are called to be!

-Phil Travis



As feared, the treatments last week did not produce any positive results for **Kaden Koebcke**. He will undergo a kidney biopsy on Wednesday....**David Henke** began chemotherapy treatment last week.. He'll have 3 weeks of therapy, one week off, then repeat several times.... **Drew Ragland** son of newcomer, Melissa Jones, a diabetic, was rushed to Clarion North Hospital in Indianapolis on Monday.

Melissa asks for our prayers.... Continue praying for those who have had recent surgeries and/or are struggling with chronic health problems: **Sara Postlethwait, Eugene Zinn, Julie Lichtey, David Hughes** (*serious injuries in a bomb explosion In Afghanistan*), **Joe Bailey, Mike Sutherlin, Amanda Martin-Draughon, Emily Jaekel, Jarred Eckman, Wayne Richey, Henrietta Frampton, Carolyn & Charles Moore, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Dottie Roberts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Steve Brady, Mark Wilson, Ti Draughon** in Iraq.

Join the Power Labs Team VBS 2008 - June 2-6; 6-8 PM

We need people to fill positions in the following areas:

- 1) Crew Leaders
- 2) Decorating
- 3) Child care
- 4) Registration
- 5) Transportation

Be a part of the fun! Contact Michelle Robson (583-3106) or sign up on the sheets next to the bulletin board by the teachers' workroom.

Good \$ense Budgeting Class



Do you ever wonder where the money goes? Most people do. We cannot ignore the reality of the importance of money. Some view it as the root of all evil, because it has led to crime, suicide, divorce, worry, scheming and many other nightmares. This crucial matter has no shortage of information in the Bible. Some two thousand Scripture passages touch on the theme of money.

A six week DVD series will be facilitated by Janet Boston beginning Wednesday, **April 23, 2008**, in the Conference/Media room. The program will begin at 5:50 PM each Wednesday evening until 6:50 PM. You will discover tools and develop skills to help you to manage and control your finances. **THIS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**



I would like to thank everyone for sending cards after my baptism and welcoming me.

-Jennifer Petty

Thank you for making me feel so welcome. God bless you all.

-Patty Wenning



Our recent winter kept our snow servants busy. A big THANK YOU to these volunteers: **Brian Guthrie, Dan & Vicky Martin, Tom Miller, Ed & Nelson Tilley.**

**Save the Date:
CSC Alumni
Reunion
(1989-1995)
July 25-27, 2008.**



March 30, 2008

Class: 190 Worship: 282

Contribution: \$6,642

Budget: \$10,000/wk



ATTENTION – All Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and All Who Love a Child (or Children)

A few weeks ago, I encouraged you to check out a book by Walt Mueller, **Youth Culture 101**. I'm not encouraging you anymore, I'm begging you. The size of the book may intimidate some of us, but the work is very well done and incredibly important! Mueller is the founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding and is a fellow struggler as he still has a child in high school.

Mueller says, "*Parents: Because your God-given responsibility is to nurture your kids toward a deep Christian faith that's integrated into all of life, you need to know their culture and world. You need the knowledge to affirm culture's positives and counter its negatives. But where do you begin? If you feel out of touch and confused by your teenagers' world, please know you are not alone! It's my hope that this book will provide you with the information necessary to navigate what's often youth culture's perplexing maze.*"

The book is not a "how to" book...I personally believe there is not such a thing for raising teenagers. This book is like many others in that it offers helpful suggestions based on research and on others' practical experiences. Mueller's encouragement is for us to be like "the men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." (1 Chronicles 12:32)

The majority of the book is written to help us understand today's culture (the book was just released in 2007) and to help us as influential adults to make a difference in the lives of adolescents as they travel through this life of confusion and challenges. I know that some of us still believe that today's young people deal with the same obstacles, etc., that we did when we were growing up. The Greek word for that is **baloney**. Our world today is far more difficult to navigate, as teens and as adults, too!

The book finishes with a very powerful chapter, "Especially for Parents: Helping Your Teenagers Find Their Places in God's Story." In the chapter, Mueller challenges us to ask ourselves some tough questions like, "*When my kids look at me, are they learning what it means to love God with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength? Do they see me trusting God for guidance and wisdom as I plan the future, run my business, manage my home, and so on? Do they see me living out my commitment to Christ by spending time reading and studying the Bible? Do they see a faith that's integrated into every area of my life, including my relationships, my vocation, my spending decisions, my use of leisure time, how I play, and so on? Are they learning to become compassionate and Christ-centered rather than insensitive and self-centered?*" I will stop there, because I want, really want you to read this book. If you would like to have a copy of the book, I'll be glad to shop around and see what the best deal I can get is, it retails for \$19.99. Personally, I think it will be one of the best \$20 investments you will ever make. Let me know soon if you want me to pick one up for you.

Blessings!

– Lee Porter

CSC Root Beer Kegger Food Donations

This year the CSC's annual Root Beer Kegger is **Friday, April 18**, and we could really use your help! We are in need of food donations in the form of side items (bags of chips, vegetable trays, etc.) or desserts (cookies, brownies, etc.). Our budget is limited so the more donations the better. We really appreciate your generosity! You may bring your donations to the church building by Friday noon and Phil Travis will pick them up to take to the campus house. This is a great opportunity to reach out to other students on the Purdue campus. If you need ideas or want a reminder closer to the event, contact Kelsey Sutherlin.

CSC Spring Banquet Friday, April 25

The annual CSC Spring Banquet is Friday, April 25, 7:00 PM, at the **Outpost** on Old US 231 near Elston Road, Lafayette. Please make your plans to attend. The cost is \$16 per person and will include a great meal with entertainment. You may remember the phenomenal entertainment provided at banquets in the past-this year will be no different! On April 6, 13, and 20, there will be a table set up in the Farris Foyer for your convenience in making your reservations. You may also make your reservations by email (ptravis@elmwood-church.org). Don't wait until the last minute. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, April 20. You won't want to miss the Banquet Opportunity of this Spring!



- April 2, 7 PM**....Bible classes for everyone
- April 4-6**....Campus Ministry candidate visits Elmwood
- April 6, 6 PM**....Worship in song at Elmwood
- April 18**....College Root Beer Kegger
- April 23, 5:50 PM**....New Good \$ense class begins
- April 25**....College Spring Banquet at the **Outpost**
- June 2-6, 6-8 PM**.... Elmwood's Vacation Bible School

*Our vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known*

