



Jesus' Family Tree

As you open up your New Testaments the first thing that appears is a rather long, and boring, list of names. Most Bibles title this *The Genealogy of Jesus*. Most of these names may mean nothing to you. You may even be tempted to just skip right over this part of Matthew because, well, "I can't really pronounce most of those names anyway! Seriously, who is Amminadab, Jeconiah, and Shealtiel?" I say you should give it a try anyway.

Did you notice that in this long list of names that there is a person who doesn't get mentioned by their name? Matthew writes, "David was the father of Solomon, *whose mother had been Uriah's wife...*"(emphasis mine). Why couldn't Matthew just give us her name. It is not a secret. Those of you familiar with the Old Testament know who this woman is. It is Bathsheba. Do you remember the story? Uriah was off to war. Bathsheba was at home alone and she decides to bathe on top of her house. David just happens to be on top of his house and he sees Bathsheba. He is attracted to her beauty, and we know the rest of the story. Why did Matthew avoid using her name?

Well, I have heard it suggested that being a good Jew Matthew could not bring himself to say her name. He was ashamed of the adultery and murder associated with Bathsheba. I like that suggestion and it is possible, but what about the other names throughout the genealogy? There is sin associated with many of the other names. I'm not sure why Matthew didn't use her name, but her inclusion in the genealogy does tell us something about God.

God used great men and women of faith to bring about His plans in the world. Jesus' bloodline is full of greatness. But it is not full of *only* greatness. It is not full of *only* faithfulness. Jesus' bloodline also includes messy lives. It includes sin. What does that say about God? I believe that it says God can take our messy little lives, our secret sins, our faults and he can create order, beauty, and holiness. Does this mean that we continue in our sins and our mess? Of course not! It means that no matter how messy your life is it is never too late to turn to God. It is never too late to ask God to use you for something great. Your mess is never too big for Him to handle.
-Gilbert

Conrad Cornelius O'Donald O'Dell

On Beyond Zebra by Dr. Seuss is a story of Conrad O'Dell who, after declaring that he knows "everything anyone knows" (because he knows all the letters of the alphabet), finds out that there is much more to the alphabet than just the 26 letters A-Z.

His friend, the narrator of the story, introduces Conrad to a whole new world, one which cannot be described by only using the "first" 26 letters of the alphabet. He says: "In the places I go there are things that I see/ That I *never* could spell if I stopped with the Z./ I'm telling you this 'cause you're one of my friends./ My alphabet starts where *your* alphabet ends!"

Conrad has learned all that he can from people that use only 26 letters, but his friend is able to show him that there is more in their world than 26 letters can categorize.

I think as Christians we find ourselves in a similar place. Being a part of the modern era, there are many people who restrict Truth to that which can be defined by the "26 letters" of Science. While Christians do not say that the first 26 letters of Science are bad, we also know that there are more letters! For example, God himself is outside the bounds of direct scientific discovery. This means that we don't have to play by society's rules, simply within the bounds of Science. We can tell our friends about the extra letters that we know about - just like the narrator of the story, and we need not be ashamed to!
-Phil

Prayer Concerns....

Kaden Koebcke, son of Cami & Travis, and grandson of Jack & Sue McCoy, is home now, and continuing medication for his kidney problems....**David Henke** was dismissed from St. Elizabeth Hospital on Sunday afternoon after spending the week receiving dialysis treatments and recovering from a virus he got while there....**Emily Jaekel**, Lynae Stafford's niece who has cerebral palsy, has not had use of her right hand since a tonsillectomy. An MRI on Monday revealed a deep brain stroke. Medication is being given and therapy begins soon....Continue praying for **Max Houlton, Gary Verett, Henrietta Frampton, Carolyn & Charles Moore, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Ivan Ellis, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Michael Farris** in Afghanistan; **Steve Brady, Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.



David and Rose Hunt are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, **Naomi, to Sean Richards on Saturday, January 5, 2008.** The newlyweds' home address is 1809 Jackson St., Lafayette 47904. Elmwood will honor the couple with an Open House (men, women, children are welcome) on **Sunday, March 2, 2:00-4:00 PM**, at the home of **Bill and Carol Bell**, 216 Jennings St., West Lafayette. If you wish to contribute towards a group gift, see Marsha Moore, Scheryl Willison, Kelsey Sutherlin or Carol Bell.



Our sympathies to Thelma Hoyt and her family on the death of her brother, **Paul Thomas.** He died early Friday morning, February 8. He was an elder with the Belle-ville Church of Christ in Belleville, Indiana. Before Thelma left for California, he told her, "I've been ready for this all my life." Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 12.

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



**It's a
Boy!**



Our congratulations to Terri & Greg Miller on the birth of grandson, **Luke Charles Pendley**, born to daughter, Angela and her husband, Andy. He was born Monday, February 7, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces, and measuring 21 inches long. Be sure to ask Terri about the amazing story of faith surrounding Luke's arrival.

Let's Start Talking News

The 6-week team will be going to Bangkok, Thailand; the 2-week team will go to Panama City, Panama. Both teams will depart mid-June.

Save the Date: CSC Alumni Reunion (1989-1995)

Come join us to rekindle with old friends July 25-27, 2008. Activities for all ages! Further details to come. For more information contact Donna Porter at danddport@comcast.net and stay tuned for further announcements.

February 10, 2008
Class: 165 Worship: 270
Contribution: \$6,899
Budget: \$10,000/week



Winterfest 2008 – Sold Out!

No, "Sold Out" is not the theme for this year's Winterfest, but the first thing you see on the website is that the event (both sessions) is sold out! I think the late session has sold out before, but I don't recall a time when both sessions were completely full. The Winterfest youth rally at Gatlinburg (there is more than one now, but Gatlinburg is the original) has been around for about 20 years. The eCy group has been attending for about 10 years now and it is always a very powerful and uplifting time. Many groups are scrambling for extra tickets as many waited till the last minute (too late this year) to decide to attend. We added three at the last minute and barely got them registered. I honestly don't know what the Winterfest group will decide to do now that both sessions have filled. The reason there are two sessions is because the Gatlinburg Convention Center cannot hold everyone in one session. I don't think the idea of a third session is workable, so it looks like some people may need to change and attend the Winterfest in January in Arlington, Texas. Please pray for the Winterfest group as they decide what to do about future events...it is a great problem to have!

We currently have 23 teens and adults from Elmwood planning to make the trip to Tennessee. We traditionally attend the late session, but when I got ready to register our group (before the early bird deadline), the late session only had 3 tickets left – we will be attending the early session this year; we have attended the early session once before and it will allow us to see some of our friends we normally miss. Many of you have already helped make this year's trip a successful time by praying for us, by providing breakfast foods and snacks for the group and by helping with expenses of some who would not have been able to go. We know that God is going to use this year to make a huge impact on the eCy group and we appreciate the fact that you have joined Him in the effort.

As our group prepares to go to Winterfest 2008, and experience all the good things that God has in store for us there, know that this year's theme is "**The Mission.**" Our Mission is outlined in Matthew 28:18-20. That mission begins with:

- 1) Knowing the Christ
- 2) Being the Christ
- 3) Seeing the Christ, and
- 4) Sharing the Christ

These are the topics for each of the main sessions at Winterfest. As you pray for those in attendance, let's ask God to work in our hearts to make all of us the kind of people who know, be (live), see, and share the Christ. As Elmwood is trying to really focus on living out our mission statement, I think it is great that the Winterfest theme and sessions align so closely with what we are trying to do as a body of Christ in the greater Lafayette area.

– Lee



A tradition was begun a few years ago by the children of Elmwood along with some adult helpers. Lynae Stafford and others have helped these children create/bake/fill/decorate Valentine bags for our widows and elderly. Several of the recipients have written cards or called the church office to express their heartfelt gratitude for this act of kindness. Thanks to all the children and their parents (and other adults who helped deliver the bags of goodies).

Campus Minister Candidate here this weekend

The Campus Minister Search Committee has invited the last of the candidates to visit Elmwood this weekend, **February 15-17**. He and his wife will attend our Sunday worship services. Plan to be here to welcome them to Elmwood.

Directory Pictures being scheduled



Directory Picture update is in progress. If you (new families) haven't been contacted by Bill Hodges, please give him a call at 449-1255 to schedule an appointment.



Feb. 13, 7 PM....Bible classes for everyone

Feb. 13, 5:50-6:50 PM....Good \$ense Budget Class, taught by Janet Boston in conference room

Feb. 15-17....Youth WINTERFEST, Gatlinburg, TN

Feb. 15-17....Campus Minister candidate here to meet the students & interview with search committee

Feb. 17, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet

Feb. 20, 11:30 AM....Senior Servants will meet in A2

