



I Have a Dream!

I am sure that I have told you this before, but I am really interested in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. As a matter of fact, the whole Civil Rights Movement intrigues me. I'm sure that is because I was raised in the deep south, and for the early part of my youth I lived not more than 30 minutes from Selma, Alabama, which is where one of the most well known marches took place during King's time.

I do not know as much about him as I would like. I need to dig more into his life, but the little I do know just fascinates me. He was a man who believed in a gospel that was much bigger than four walls and a pulpit. He believed in a gospel that was more than a simple prayer over dinner or a night of praise and worship. The gospel he believed in could not be contained like that. This gospel was not that simple. No, he believed in a gospel that shook the very foundations of culture and society. He believed in a gospel that is good news to the poor, breaks the chains of the prisoners, that gives the blind their sight, and lifts the yoke of the oppressed. That is a powerful gospel. He said he had a dream, and thank God he did!

I hope that you recognize the contributions of this man. I hope that you believe in that very same gospel that he believed in. I know that it has been 45 years since his speech, but we need to be people who will keep his dream alive. I am convinced that it is a God-led dream.

I say all of this because January 21st is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We do not mention this very often in churches, at least not in predominantly white churches, but I hope to change that at Elmwood. I want to encourage you to at least say a prayer of thanks for what this man accomplished. Can you do that?

-Gilbert

Let me leave you with one of my favorite quotes:

"A religion that cares about the souls of men but not men's bodies might be a religion, but it is not the Christian religion."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Something Special

There is something that happens every Sunday within the walls of our building with which I am quite impressed. It is something that, while not unique to our church community, is not wide-spread in American churches. It is a rather small something, a seemingly insignificant act perhaps, even to those who do it on a regular basis. And yet, it is this very thing, this small act which is in fact part of one of the most important things that we do as a church community.

Blue cards. They are located right in front of us every week available for each of us. They are placed there for us to have an opportunity to write a quick note of encouragement to people that we know. Encouragement is an important part of any Christian community. Encouragement and other aspects of community life is the subject about which much of the New Testament is written. In fact there is a fairly major character in Acts named Joseph who we know as "Barnabas" - which means "Son of Encouragement" (Acts. 4:36). This man was such a force of encouragement for those around him, they went ahead and changed his name! I am happy to see a large stack of blue cards on Sherry's desk on Monday mornings (though she may have mixed feelings about it!). To those of you who write Blue Cards on a regular basis, thank you for embodying what it means to be a part of the Christian community - the words you write to a brother or sister in Christ may be exactly what they need to hear!

-Phil

Prayer Concerns....

David Henke will have surgery on January 23 at White County Memorial Hospital to remove a malignant tumor from his colon....**Barbara Scott**, Don Vice's mother, will consult with an oncologist for treatment of cancer next week....Continue praying for **Mandy Anderson** (shoulder surgery and upcoming surgery on her back), **Paul Thomas**, **Herb King**, **Max Houlton**, **Scott Baker**, **David Riley** (needs lense replacement eye surgery), **Eileen Richardson**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Delores Nolan**, **Rick Sims**, **Willie Batts**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **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** (Rick & Doris Swensen's son-in-law, Barbara's husband), **Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

Dynamic Love

(new Sunday morning class for couples)

Every man and woman yearns for intimacy in mind, body, and spirit. *Dynamic Love* is an advanced marriage course that teaches couples to experience the deepest and most satisfying levels of intimacy, and explore the spiritual dimensions of their relationship.

This material and delivery system provide unique opportunities to develop relationship skills that include but also goes beyond communication, compatibility, conflict management, decision-making and sexuality. All of this is sound teaching based on the Bible.

Bill and Carol Bell will be teaching the advanced marriage course starting January 20th at the regular Bible class time in room 204. This class is for married couples and both husband and wife must attend. The class will last 12 weeks. Call the church office at 765-447-2847 and leave a message for Bill Bell about your interest in the class or to pose any questions. All materials will be provided, but bring your own Bible.

While the material we will be using was developed by the Family Dynamics Institute, this class is not the eight-week seminar called *Dynamic Marriages* you have heard about and which so many Elmwood couples have completed. As described above, *Dynamic Love* is a Bible class where the teaching we receive will help each couple become closer in all dimensions of the marriage relationship, but especially the spiritual dimension.

-Bill Bell

Good Sense Budgeting

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 January 30, 2008 in the Conference 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!**

A sign-up form will be available for you to register (free of charge) in the Farris foyer. Please register by Sunday, January 27, 2008, to allow time to prepare handouts.



Happy Anniversary



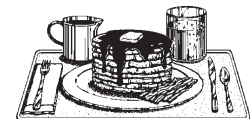
Dick & Janice Waterstraat will celebrate **52 years** of marriage on **January 20**. Congratulations on a wonderful milestone!

Help!

Becky Pitt is scheduling a clean-up/organizing/decorating time this **Saturday, January 19, from 8:30 AM-1:00 PM**, for the younger children's rooms. If you can help, contact Becky (471-9155) or Cara Gamble (538-2995).

Men's Breakfast

Jan. 19, 7:43 AM



Men of all ages are invited to attend the men's breakfast Saturday, January 19, at 7:43 AM, at Elmwood in A-2. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend you are missing out on a great time of Christian fellowship.

We will have a great breakfast prepared by Bob Evans and we will be spiritually motivated by Gilbert Kerrigan.

January 13, 2008

Class: 186 Worship: 285

Contribution: \$4,987

Budget: \$10,000/week

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Elmwood joins Disaster Relief Team



We wish to welcome **Andrew & Michelle Foor** and their two boys, **Matthew & Nicolas**. The Foor's have been coming for a while, having been invited to come with Tom & Beth Miller. Andrew is in the Naval ROTC program at Purdue with Tom. They are from Rockford, Illinois, but recently had lived in Charleston, South Carolina. Andy will graduate in December, and they will once again go back to South Carolina. Michelle is a stay-at-home Mom with Matthew and Nicolas. They live at 2738 Chilton Drive, Lafayette 47909. Phone numbers: (Andy's cell) 843-276-3065; (Michelle's cell) 843-276-3280. Email addresses: Andy's is asfoor@purdue.edu; and Michelle's is foorfamil4@yahoo.com. Welcome Andy and Michelle! We are so glad you are here!

Thank You

*Dear Elmwood family,
Terry and I just can't thank you enough for the flowers, cards, and prayers for our family at this time. The presence of so many of you at the funeral home made a wonderful impact on the Spenard family. We love you all so very much.*
-Terry & Ginger

Campus Minister Search Committee has identified 3 candidates to interview

The Campus Minister Search is moving right along in their search for candidates. The top three candidates have been invited to come for visits on the following dates: January 25-27; February 8-10; and February 15-17. More information about the schedule in upcoming newsletters.



- January 16, 7 PM....**Bible classes for everyone
- January 19, 7:43 AM....**Men's Breakfast in A-2
- January 19, 8:30-1:00....**Workday/clean-up/organizing young children's classrooms
- January 20, 9:30 AM....***Dynamic Love* class, led by Bill & Carol Bell, in room 204.
- January 20, 6 PM....**LIFE Groups

