



Come Worship With Us!

I heard a preacher once say that church leaders get too caught up in “nickels and noses” when they are measuring the health of their churches. I believe we all know what is meant by “nickels and noses.” We tend to get wrapped up in that budget line that appears in our newsletter every week, or that total number in attendance for both services. I’ll be honest and say that I get caught up in looking at those numbers each week.

While rising numbers do not always prove a church is healthy and falling numbers do not always prove a church is unhealthy, I do believe they are indicators of something. It is not always easy to know what that something is. Numbers can rise and fall for both good reasons and bad reasons. It is important to not just get excited about rising numbers, or disappointed about falling numbers, but to investigate the cause behind both.

A number that I believe is extremely important to count is our guests on Sundays. A church that does not have guests with them each and every Sunday is a church that will eventually die; some quicker than others. I heard a leadership guru once say that the only way to rejuvenate a church and keep a fresh vision is with new faces. I believe that is so true. New faces are always exciting.

There are different kinds of guests. Some are just passing through as they travel. Others are church shoppers. Some come right in off the street. These different kinds of guests are always a welcome blessing to a church. But there is still one more kind of guest that indicates a lot about our church. This is the guest that was invited by a member. While all guests get me excited, I really get excited about this kind because it tells me that the inviting member is excited enough about this church to bring others in, and that they are letting their light shine by spending time with people outside the church.

Let’s keep Elmwood refreshed and rejuvenated with invited guests every week!

-Gilbert Kerrigan

Going Against the Grain

I recently heard Gordon Fee- the author of many important works, and part of the translation committee for the TNIV. He was speaking at Rochester College on the topic of 1 Corin-thians about which he has written a rather extensive commen-tary (900 pages!).

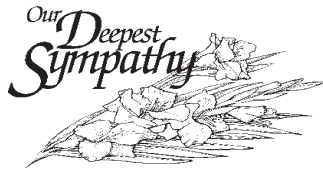
At one point in his speech he talked about 1 Cor. 5:12: “Every-thing is permissible for me’ – but not everything is beneficial” as well as Chapter 8 of the same book.

Dr. Fee’s point in speaking about this text was that, like the Corin-thians, we often ask the question, “Can I do this, and still be a Chris-tian?” The Corinthians had already come up with their answer “every-thing is permissible for me,” but Fee stresses that asking this question betrays the belief that “as long as we don’t go outside these bounds, we can do whatever we want” which makes sense, at first, until you consider what the focus of the Christian ethic is.

The focus of the Christian ethic is not oneself, nor is it the relation-ship one has with God. Instead, the focus of the Christian ethic is summed up in 10:24: “Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” Paul does not spend much time in his letter to the Corinthians making pronouncements about specific things; instead he enfolds the discussion in Christian relationship.

When making decisions, a Christian does not ask “is this what is best for me?” but, “is this what is best for the community – for those around me?”

-Phil Travis



We are saddened to learn of the death of **Oka LeMaster**. She was 96 years old. She died peacefully Monday morning at her daughter, Cathy's home. She had recently been in the emergency room several times for what she called "a weak spell." She was receiving hospice care. Funeral arrangements are pending, though Cathy hopes it will be Saturday at Hippensteel with an hour of visitation before the funeral. Gayle Crowe will be conducting the service. Watch your email for the exact date and time. Our sincere sympathies to Cathy and the rest of Oka's family.



David Henke spent time over the weekend in the hospital in Monticello. He has been receiving chemotherapy treatments which have made him very sick.... **Vickie Sanders** is suffering with shingles.... **Barbara Scott**, Don Vice's mother, is in St. Mary's nursing home. A fall on Mother's Day left her with a cracked vertebrae. Don hopes rehab will improve her mobility ...**Lois Powlen** mother of Craig & Brad Powlen, has

pancreatic cancer. She lives near Delphi....**Amanda Powlen** continues to improve. Her weight is up over 3 pounds and she is breathing some on her own. Praise God!....Continue praying for **Kaden Koebcke** (*treatment for nephrosis*), **Marge Campbell** (*cancer treatment*), **Eugene Zinn**, **Ginger Maxwell-Spenard**, **Connie Nicholson**, **Sara Postlethwait** (*consults with a specialist in Indianapolis this week*), **Joe Bailey**, **Alan Dale** (*cancer*), **Jera Feltz**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Herb King**, **Eileen Richardson**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Marie DeWoody**, **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**, **Shawn Wilson**, and **Ti Draughon**.

POWER LAB Vacation Bible School June 2-6, 6:00-8:00 PM

There are still a few items needed for station leaders. Please see the molecules on the wall by the Farris foyer. It's not too late to register your child. Just complete the form located on the bulletin board near the teachers' workroom.

We hope all children (3 years old-5th grade) are making plans to attend the awesome POWER LAB VBS this year. Teachers are getting organized and anticipate a wonderful time for everyone. See you Monday, June 2!

-Michelle Robson

Farewell to the Huffs

A "going-away party" is being planned for **Jimmy & Susan Huff** at the CSC on **Saturday, May 31, 6:00-10:00 PM**. We are going to be grilling out for the event and need people to bring side items that go with a typical barbecue. Questions? Contact Jason Cochran or Dan & Vicky Martin.

Happy 60th!



Help **Doris & Rick Swensen** celebrate this milestone anniversary by coming to **University Place** (Great Room) from **2:00-4:00 PM** on June 14. Their children are planning a special celebration!



Members of Elmwood:
Thank you Lee Porter and Gilbert Kerrigan for your loving concern and prayers for my daughter, Lori Baker and her family in our time of grief. We also want to express our gratitude to the ladies of the church for the wonderful lunch they provided following Lori's funeral. **I can see why Lori loved her church.**

In Christian love, the family
of Lori Baker

Senior Servants have a special speaker June 4

At 12 noon, June 4, **Jeff Johnson** will speak to the senior servants about Alzheimer's disease. This is open to **everyone!** Margaret Gustafson says he is very knowledgeable and helpful with his information. The group will meet at their usual 11:30 time to eat and sign cards.

May 25, 2008

Class: 145 Worship: 239

Contribution: \$6,250

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Elmwood's Vacation Bible School June 2-6, 2008 – Power Lab

Ready or not, Vacation Bible School starts next Monday night at 6:00 and will meet each night from 6 to 8, Monday through Friday. I pray all of you are planning to be here and to help out in whatever way you are interested and able. VBS is a very special opportunity. Last year, we had a very successful event and several of the families who attended are still with us. That's one big reason why we do VBS; it isn't just another teaching opportunity for our own children, nor is it just one more way to keep us busy. On the Power Lab website, it says, "It's life changing! That's why you do VBS, right? Power Lab's packed with deep-impact Bible learning and application options that open young hearts to Jesus. You'll see God work miracles in and through you and your volunteers...and literally watch lives change as kids embrace Operation Kid-to-Kid and dive into Daily Challenges. Your children won't just learn God's Word—they'll live it." What they are saying is that VBS incorporates active learning. In active learning, you tap into the kinesthetic learning style that I personally believe we all possess to some degree. In my opinion, Jesus used active learning on a regular basis: water to wine, feeding of the 5,000, walking on water, parables, and the list goes on. We learn by doing and we remember what we have experienced.

It is not too late to get involved. You still have time to let Michelle Robson know you are available. You have friends and neighbors you can invite. A few supplies are still needed. Actually, you can even just come and hang around and meet the kids and their parents. We need to begin building relationships with as many of the children and their families as possible. A few of us cannot do it all – we need you to help us make those connections. That is one of the benefits of having the VBS in the evening...the workforce is larger! 6 to 8 pm is a prime time for people to be available – let's turn out in record numbers to meet our guests! I also believe that having VBS early in the summer is a good idea...we will be one of the first groups to reach out to the community. I know you have already started, but keep praying that Power Lab will be Elmwood's best VBS ever.

Thank You!

I would like to say thank you to Gilbert for being bold in suggesting we do something different on Sunday evenings during the summer... "End of the Spear" was a great movie! I also want to say thank you to all who are making their way to the Seniors' Open Houses...we have more this weekend! – Lee Porter

Graduation Open Houses....



Krista
Howe

Sunday, June 1, 4:00 PM
54 Fairfieldview Ct., Lafayette

Natasha
Risley

Saturday, June 7, 2:00 PM
7259 N. 700 W., Delphi

Brighton Baker's open house will be at a later date in July.

Open House for Koons on May 30th

Long-time members Cecil and Carol Koons have "moo-ved" to an organic dairy farm in Hicksville, OH, not far from Fort Wayne. While they promise to visit often, Cecil and Carol would like to greet friends and talk about their new adventure, this **Friday evening, May 30th from 5:00 until 8:00 PM**, at the home of Bill and Carol Bell, 216 Jennings Street, WL. Please stop by after work for food and fellowship with the Koons. We look forward to seeing you all! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bell.



Calling all Parents

Children's Church (grades K-5) will break during the summer and resume again the first Sunday in September. Enjoy your summer vacation!
-Joe Ruhl



May 28, 7 PM....Bible classes for everyone
May 28, 5:50-6:50 PM....Good \$ense class
May 30, 5-8 PM....Farewell/Open House for **Cecil & Carol Koons**, who have moved to Ohio
May 31, 6-10 PM....Cookout/farewell party for the Huffs at the CSC; bring a side-dish
June 2-6, 6-8 PM.... Elmwood's Vacation Bible School

