



## Thank You!

As you read through the New Testament you realize pretty quickly that there are a few big names that get a lot of recognition. Obviously, Jesus is the main attraction. But there are names like Peter, John, James, and Paul. Those are big ones. They receive a lot of attention and space in the New Testament.

Have you ever noticed the many names that do not get all the attention and space? There are places like Romans 16 where Paul provides this long list of names. A lot of those names only appear in that chapter. In Luke 8 there are some women who are said to have been traveling with Jesus, supporting him in his ministry. We know very little about most of those women, but they were important. The list of names in Romans 16 was of people who were important to Paul. We may not know much else about them, but we know they were important.

It seems in life there are always those people who get little to no recognition, yet they are vitally important to someone or something. Churches are full of people just like that. Churches rely on people just like that. Yes, there are those in the church that get a lot of recognition, but there are so many more truly important people in the church who go unrecognized. Elmwood is no exception.

There are countless numbers of people who keep things running in our church. We have many gifted people who provide classes and worship opportunities specifically designed for our children. We have others who work tirelessly in the kitchen. Any time there is food available at Elmwood someone put lots of time and energy into making it a great experience. Others cut our lawn, help keep the building clean, and even decorate it from time to time. There are others who are dedicated servants in our food pantry. I could keep going on and on.

My point is that churches are rarely sustained by those who get most of the recognition (i.e. ministers and elders). Most often it is sustained by those who receive little to no recognition. We could not succeed without such people. To you (and you know who you are) I say, "Thank you!"

-Gilbert

## Forgiveness

In this fallen world that we live in, it is inevitable that we will offend or hurt those we are around. That we are in this world is no excuse, for we have been called to new life. But what do we do when we are the ones who are hurt? What do we do when, while going about our daily life, someone ruins our day, or even drastically changes our life forever?

As Christians, we don't have an easy job. When someone hurts us, God calls us to forgive them. I was reading a blog recently, and a minister was asked "Do I need to forgive someone if they don't ask for forgiveness?"

Mt. 6:14-15 says "*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*"

This is a difficult saying! In this text, Jesus places no requirement on a person to ask for forgiveness in order to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an intra-personal effort, and while reconciliation of the relationship in many cases flows out of forgiveness, sometimes that is not possible. If someone passes away, or hurts you without even realizing it, they cannot ask for forgiveness, yet God tells us to forgive them anyway.

This forgiveness is modeled after the forgiveness that God himself extended to all of us "*But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us*" (Rom. 5:8). -Phil



**Annie Crowder** was admitted to Clarian Arnett Hospital, Rm 234..... **Beth Holt** will need surgery on her hand for carpal tunnel sometime in the coming months....**Bailey Anderson** had successful surgery for tubes inserted in his ears....**Thelma Hoyt** will have knee replacement surgery on both knees at Home Hospital on August 13....Sally Smith's sister-in-law, **Ginna Ruckh**, is home and doing well.....Continue praying for **Pete Swank, Diann Doty, Bud Darby, Betty Farnar, Elaine Crowder, Henry Hunt (now home), Ella McCullough, Christa Phillips, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**

In the military: **Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew), **Brent Kaufman**, and **Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.



## Weekly Prayer Focus

### August Prayer Focus: Campus Ministry Leadership in the Campus Ministry

Pray for all those involved in the leadership in the campus ministry at Elmwood: Phil and Katy Travis, Josh Boyd, the Campus Committee, the Elders, and the Student Leadership Team. Also pray for all of our members who have adopted a Purdue student this year.



Our sympathies to Annie and Elaine Crowder on the death of Annie's sister, Mary Fair, 80 years old, of Cambridge, Ohio. Her funeral is Wednesday, August 12. She was Annie's only remaining sibling.



Congratulations to **Barbara Heston** for her decision to put on Christ in baptism. Barbara is Heaven Welter's maternal grandmother. She lives in Lancaster, Ohio. We rejoice with Barbara, Heaven, Matt and Noelani Welters, and Michelle and Erik Edmonds.

**August 9, 2009**

**Class: 154 Worship: 272 Contribution: \$7719**

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**Perry and Janet Achor** will celebrate **51 years** of marriage on August 17! Congratulations!

## Sunday Night, August 16: A Night of Prayer and Songs

Be sure to come **this Sunday night at 6:00** for a night of prayer and songs. Come as we lift up our God in song and pour out our hearts in prayer.



### Attention Parents

Children's Church (Grades 1 - 5) during second service will resume on Sunday, September 6th.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** These items are not available at the Food Bank.



## Well, this is it!

The summer is winding down and school is starting back up. My time here is about to come to an end. As the old saying goes, "When one door is shut, another one is opened!" The door is about to shut on my work here this summer, but as always, God has used this summer to open up many doors for me. Thank you for a great summer and accepting me as part of your family.

One of the things that I've been touching on a lot this summer is God's plans for each of us individually. I fear that, at times, we tend to make our own life plans without bringing God into the planning process. Through my experience, I have found that God has delightful ways of upsetting those plans. Of course, in spiritual issues, it is customary for us to put God first, but in practical, every day issues of our lives, where is He in our planning process? If it is in our heads that we have put on our somber, spiritual face to approach God, then we never will. We must come to Him as we are! Gilbert talked about worry a few weeks ago. I think that the only thing that will keep us from even the possibility of worrying is to bring God into all of our planning.

In John 14, Jesus tells us, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me!" Trust God with the plans you make. Keep Him in the center of every planning process. This is a *command* of Jesus. "Don't let your hearts be troubled!"

"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you!"  
~Psalms 37:5

-Randy Kerrigan

*God is good...all the time.  
All the time...God is good.*

## A Note from the Elders

### Angel's Place

Rick Swensen's brother, Jan Swensen, has for several years been instrumental in developing a children's home in India which is named "Angel's Place." This home has been so successful that the authorities have asked Jan to expand the home. This expansion is now underway and more children are being admitted to the home. Several Elmwood members have been supporting children in the home. The cost of support is \$35 a month. Now the home has more children so it needs more sponsors. If you would like to support a child you may write to: James Connection, 473 Woodland Hills Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or you may talk to Rick Swensen. When you sponsor a child you will receive the child's name and a picture of the child. The children write to their sponsors regularly (in English), look forward to receiving mail from their sponsors and are extremely appreciative of the help they are receiving.

### Christian Student Center Building Fund

It was proposed three years ago that a new Christian Student Center would be built on the property now occupied by the CSC. People contributed \$9089 toward this building. The people who were involved in the planning, Dan Cooke, Gayle Crowe, and Chad Pitt are no longer here and/or involved in the planning. Therefore the project has been put on hold. Meanwhile the hope is that a new group of people will take up the project. The funds continue to be held in the Elmwood bank account.

### Natural Church Development 2009 Evaluation

On May 30 active Elmwood members completed a Natural Church Development assessment of the congregation. This material was sent off to be scored. We have received the scores on this assessment. The elders will review these results on August 18. When the review is completed the results will be reported to the congregation along with the action the elders decide should be taken in light of the assessment results.



**August 12, 7 PM**...Bible classes for all  
**August 16, 6 PM**...A Night of Prayer and Songs  
**August 23, 6 PM**...CSC Night  
**August 29**...Ladies' Tea, various locations  
**August 30, 6 PM**...Mission Trip Reports

*If you opt for e-delivery of the newsletter, let the church office know via e-mail, phone call, or write your request on your yellow card on Sunday.*

Read:  
*Job 31-42; Ecclesiastes 1-6;*  
*I Corinthians 14-II Cor. 2*

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 35: August 24-30

## Change - Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

3:1 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:.....*

3:14 *I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.*

When I read this passage from Ecclesiastes, I think about the subject of change. The writer tells there is a time for everything but we understand it involves change. Change is something that most of us instinctively resist. Perhaps this is because change can involve perceived or real pain, risk or just an uncomfortable feeling. Sometimes this resistance is justified for our particular situation, such as when the highway department wants to put a 4 lane highway thru our property, but not for our community as a whole.

For some reason God created individuals we call “change agents” whose sole mission in life is to make the rest of us change from our comfortable course to one of the unknown. We spend many hours considering change. Change happens, we worry, we pray, we consider our response, we adapt, and we move to the next change.

When we think about it, we understand our lives are full of change every day. Some change we don’t even recognize because it is subtle and becomes an acceptable part of our routine. For example, the length of daylight available changes each day until we find we’re at the “shortest” or “longest” day of the year depending on the season. We may not like it, but we continue with our daily routines and know that God has everything under control.

When considering this topic, I find comfort in verse 14 of this passage. Everything God does will endure forever. With God there is no change (Malachi 3:6). Nothing can be added to or taken away from what God does. With God, we have no fear of change because he doesn’t change (James 1:17). Let us revere him. God is the same now and forever. Amen!  
 -Joe Mathews

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<p>Sunday          Worship 8:00 a.m.          Bible Study 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:45 a.m.          Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday          Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139          Joe Mathews 474-8369          Joe Ruhl 463-6822          Rick Swensen 463-6822          Don Vice 471-8653</p> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Ministers          Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652          Lee Porter 463-6993          Phil Travis 447-2874</p> <p>Office          Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874          Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers          World Christian Broadcasting          Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth          Phuket, Thailand 83000          E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White          P.O. Box 245          New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p><b>Our Vision:</b>          Knowing Christ,          Making Christ Known.</p>		

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