



Making our visitors feel welcome!

Each year, Elmwood has about 150 first-time visitors. What a gift from God! Recently, the elders, ministers, and deacons studied ways of better showing our thanks for such a gift and making our visitors feel more comfortable with us. As a result, Elmwood is making some changes. We want everyone to understand what these changes are and why we are making them so that with everyone's help, we can make visiting Elmwood (and ultimately following Christ) easier.

First service: The new back row is the row formerly known as 7th from the back! We will be roping off the back 6 rows for early service, so if you like the back row, just make a note of its new location. With less seating, first service can take advantage of its smaller numbers to have a more concentrated and robust worship time together.

Second service: Jim Moore is putting together a plan to have ushers in addition to our greeters. These ushers will actually guide newcomers to their seats. And in order for visitors to have the best worship experience, we want them to be seated in the heart of the assembly, and not just in the back rows. Here's what we need from you: aisle seats. Rather than your customary seats on the aisles, please make sure there are at least two seats open at the ends of your row. This will make the ushers' job much easier.

Yellow cards: Visitors don't want to stick out. They don't want to be put on the spot. And they do want to blend in. In order for us to follow up with visitors, we at least need some contact information, and you can help us get it. When it's time to fill out the yellow cards, we need **everyone** to fill out the card completely. If visitors look around and see only sporadic participation with yellow cards, or people who (like us) just write "4 Boyds," the way they can blend in most easily is to fill out little or none of the information. But if everyone fills them out completely every week, the way to blend in as a visitor is to do the same! This is a small way you can increase our opportunities to serve the needs of visitors by finding out how to contact them.

Responses and volunteering: In order to give new visitors, members, and regular attenders more opportunities to become involved with the body here, we're going to use the back of the yellow card as the contact point for any signups. There will no longer be any signing up in the Farris Foyer—everything will be done on the back of the yellow cards: men's breakfasts, VBS volunteers, women's retreat, adopting college students, LUM meals, even fun social events. Again, we want everyone to know how to get involved, and we want to make involvement easy. The yellow card should help us do that (and keep some of us from forgetting between the announcement and the end of services!).

Thank you for being willing to change so that more people can get to know about Jesus and His church!
-Josh Boyd, for the outreach ministries

Enter Into Life

"If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire"
(Mark 9:42-44).

This text subtly states an important truth that we often miss, I think. While it is important to understand that we should make every effort in order to run from sin, I would like to focus in on a few words from this text. "It is better to enter life."

Obviously the people to whom Jesus was speaking were already alive. They were alive in the way we usually understand what it means to be alive, but Christ is talking about something so much more profound than our scientific definition of the term.

Jesus is implying that our lives here are but a shadow of what true life is. True life is experienced when we are with God. Paul continues this thought in 2 Cor. 5:4, "*For while we are still in this tent, [this earthly dwelling] we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*"

Let us look forward with joy to the day when we are all swallowed up by life, that Day when we are with God.

-Phil

Jan Lucas has been diagnosed with advanced stage cancer. Chris Sutherlin (her daughter) and Jan were to consult with doctors for a treatment plan on Tuesday afternoon....**Diann Doty** had surgery for breast cancer on Tuesday....**Paul Marks** is in Clarian Arnett Hospital, room 503 with congestive heart failure....**Dick Mow**, Brenda Gibson's 83-year-old brother-in-law, was diagnosed with an aggressive leukemia. Doctors will determine this week whether he is able to handle chemotherapy treatment....**Ted Heitman**, Becky Pitt's father, was recently diagnosed with cancer. He will begin treatment in March....**Ethel Cable** is now at Digby House (assisted living facility). Her address there is Ethel Cable Apt. #115, Digby House, 167 W. 240 S., Lafayette 47909....**Myrtle Hale**, former Elmwood member years ago, fell and broke her arm....Continue praying for the following people who have serious physical problems and/or chronic illness: **Pete Swank, Rose Hunt, Janet Achor, Joe Henn** (*Peter Tavana's grandfather*), **Mary Tavana, Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Annie Crowder, Delores Hill, Elizabeth Tinkle, Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Agnes Schubert** (*Hedi Devine's mother*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister*), **Dick Stout, Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters, Eileen Richardson, Phyllis Gray, Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White, Willie Batts, Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Jean Stockberger, Lance & Lane Pepper, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Margie Campbell, Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, and Minnie Scott.**



Shawn Wilson, nephew of Armilda & Bernie Follick, will be home February 21! Praise God!



Dear Church family,
We just wanted to let you know how much your visits, cards, kind thoughts, and especially your prayers were appreciated at the unexpected passing of Pam's father, Stephanie's and Sam's grandfather. The flowers were beautiful. You helped us begin the process of mourning Dad's passing and celebrating his life.

-Max & Pam Houlton, Steve & Stephanie Curwick

The following note is a sample of the thanks our elderly have expressed to Elmwood children for the Valentine treat bags they received recently. A tradition was started several years ago for children to decorate bags and fill them with goodies and deliver to the elderly and shut-ins. A sincere thank you to all the children who participated.

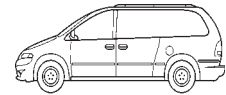
"Elmwood kids, thank you for the Valentine and for your kindness. You are cool kids. Jesus is proud of you."

Elmwood family,
Thank you for your cards and prayers for my husband and me. It means a lot to me to know people care. A special thanks to the Senior Servants for their many cards.

-Willie & Calvin Batts



Transportation Helpers



Are you willing to give someone a ride to church or to a medical appointment? Volunteers provide the simple service of helping someone get to their appointment and back home again. Many times it is on your way, so it takes very little time. Volunteers are needed from all areas of the city and county. Add your name to the list to be called when a need arises. Contact David Weckerly.

Snow Servants



The snow servant this week (2/8-14) for light snow removal is **Peter Tavana, 474-6519.**

February 8, 2009

Class: 186 Worship: 318

Contribution: \$\$9,503

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



Love God and Love Others – Winterfest 2009

The Jews of Jesus' day understood what it was like for life to be complicated. The Law had become a complex list of 613 total commandments; 248 positive commands; 365 negative commands. 613 commands to try to keep up with! Complex! So, this Pharisee (recorded in Matthew 22:34-40) asked Jesus to boil it all down to the basic elements. So Jesus did so by quoting a most familiar passage from Deuteronomy 6:4... "the Shema;" a statement of faith that was recited every day by Jews. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." To love God is not just to have good feelings about Him or to keep a list of prescribed rules. To love God is to give him your all; everything you've got—your intellect, your spirit, your body, your time, your service, your allegiance. What kind of love is this?

We Practice 3 Kinds of Love

1) The First Type of Love is **LOVE, IF**

It's the only kind of love many people have ever known. It's the type of love you and I give or receive when certain requirements are met. You have to do something to earn it. "If love" is conditional love. It says, I love you...IF you don't embarrass me. IF you behave right. "If love" is purely selfish.

2) The Second Type of Love is **LOVE, BECAUSE**

With this type of love, the person is loved because of something he is - - something he has - - or something he does. This love is produced by a certain condition or quality in the other person's life "Because love is easy love." It says I love you...Because you are PRETTY. Because you are RICH. Because you are ATHLETIC. Because you are SMART. It's a shaky foundation, and not one upon which to establish a marriage or any lasting relationship. Paul says love does not envy. Love doesn't have to look at what you are and what others are and what they have. True love doesn't look at **what** you are; it looks at **who** you are.

3) The Third Type of Love is **LOVE, IN SPITE OF**

This love says, I love you regardless. I love you anyhow. I love you no matter what. I love you in spite of everything. No strings attached. Unconditional. "Love is not blind—it sees more, not less. But because it sees more, it is willing to see less." "In Spite Of Love" says: "I Love You...Even if you do me wrong. Even if your style of music is different from mine. Even if you dress differently. Yes, I love you no matter what. In spite of all the differences. That's how God loves me. And I'm trying to learn to love others in that same way.

I edited the thoughts above from the Winterfest pre-event devo. Loving God and loving others will be the focus of this year's time together – come learn with us. **It's not too late**; we still have a couple tickets left! – Lee

Women's Retreat February 27-28 Lisa Crowe, speaking!

The **Women's Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, February 27 from 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM, and Saturday, February 28, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at Elmwood.** Our speaker will be **Lisa Crowe**, teaching on "**Lessons from Luke and Acts.**" *Lisa encourages women to read both Luke and Acts between now and the time of the retreat. Focus on the themes of prayer, believing women, the Holy Spirit, and the rich and the poor. You may want to make notes during your study to enhance group discussions during the retreat.*

Cost of the retreat is \$10.00 per person, and is payable during registration which can be done between services in the Farris Foyer. This will be a very enjoyable retreat for women of all ages, and every woman is encouraged to attend. Several scholarships are available for any woman who would like one. If you have already registered, please stop at the table and pick up notes that include a schedule of activities and other helpful information. Questions? Contact Terri Miller at 471-1045.



All girls kindergarten-3rd grade are invited to a **tea party** in A-2 on Saturday, **February 14, 4-7 PM**, hosted by Courtney Buss and Beth Miller. The girls are welcome to wear a fancy dress or outfit and bring one doll as a "guest." We will have food, crafts, and games. RSVP by Wednesday, February 11 to Beth Miller (beth.miller05@gmail.com, 260-503-9111) or Courtney Buss (cbuss19@gmail.com, 502-648-0005).



February 11, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
February 15, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
February 20-22....Youth Winterfest in Gatlinburg
February 27-28....Women's Retreat at Elmwood,
Lisa Crowe, speaker
April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ
June 8-12, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School

Read:
Psalms 22-40;
Acts 5:17-8:40

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 9: February 23-March 1

My Journey

My spiritual journey, like most people's, I assume, has its high points and low points. Sometimes I feel that my sin is so great that it not only separates me from God, but disallows me the ability to see and do His will. A man in scripture has written many psalms that uplift and encourage people daily! David, a man after God's own heart, had his fair share of spiritual high points and low points on his journey:

"Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the Lord without wavering" (Psalm 26:1 NIV).

"For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me" (Psalm 40:12 NIV).

"For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin" (Psalm 38:17-18 NIV).

David, just like us, had his sweet victories and bitter defeats on his spiritual journey. However, through the ups and downs David maintained his close and personal relationship with the Creator of the universe! This is evidenced through his psalms. All we can see are the portions of his relationship that he decided to put down on paper. Just imagine the intimate prayer life that he must have had. David stumbled just like the rest of us, but he realized that through our iniquities we *can* still serve God, and God will not leave us!

"If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand" (Psalm 37:23-24 NIV).

This Journey is a daily walk, and God is with us every step of the way. We should find comfort in knowing that God can use us to do His will no matter where we are on our journey. Whether we are in a valley, or on that mountaintop, God *can* use us and *will* use us for His purposes if we seek Him daily in an intimate relationship like David. —Patrick Ruhl

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	<div style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Staff</div> Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com
<div style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known. </div>		Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

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