



## Feeling a Little Green?

This past Sunday Josh Boyd and I talked about the metaphor, *God is a Gardener*. If you missed worshipping with Elmwood this past Sunday, you can hear the sermon on our website, <http://elmwood-church.org>.

We used the metaphor to show how through scripture all people are pictured as soil. We can be good soil or bad soil, and God works on us much like a gardener works on the soil in his garden. In turn, God's people are to take on the role of gardener. We are to tend to and cultivate each other, so that like good soil we can all produce good fruit.

But Josh and I also suggested that this metaphor also has implications for our environment. God created real soil. He created real plants, trees, bugs for the plants, and animals. God is a gardener in the literal sense of the word, and it seems clear throughout the scriptures that God cares deeply for all of His creation. When He put Adam in the garden He gave Adam the responsibility *"to work it and take care of it"* (Gen. 2:15). He created someone to be his image, or ambassador in the garden, to act as the gardener. Later, he even provides rest for the ground (Lev. 25). God seems to truly care for his garden (creation).

I believe the Genesis story not only shows us our beginnings, but it also gives humanity identity and purpose. We are still the ones responsible for God's garden. We are *"to work it and take care of it."* I realize that "being green" is a trendy phrase that is getting thrown around these days, but maybe God's people are supposed to feel a little green. I believe we are to be good stewards of the environment.

One of the ways Elmwood is going to try to be better stewards of the environment is by providing the option of receiving this newsletter through email, rather than receiving a printed copy through snail mail. Josh added up the figures and suggested that if only 50 people would choose this option Elmwood would save, not only lots of paper, but also around \$800 per year. In response on Sunday, 80 people requested this option. If you were absent Sunday, or if you receive this out of town, and you would like to start receiving the newsletter electronically please let us know, [office@elmwood-church.org](mailto:office@elmwood-church.org).

-Gilbert

## Missing the Point

I am currently reading a book written by authors Tony Campolo and Brian McLaren. It is entitled *Missing the Point* and it covers eighteen wildly varying topics. The authors' intent is to take the reader on a journey to rethink some of the things that many Christians hold to be true without question.

The first topic that McLaren addresses is "Salvation." McLaren starts this chapter by asking "Are you Saved?" He then discusses the implications of that question. Perhaps the most salient quote in this chapter is this:

*"If you had asked the apostle Paul, 'If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain that you would be with God in heaven?' I'm certain Paul would have said yes. But he probably would have given you a funny look and wondered why you were asking this question, because to him it missed the point. To Paul the point of being Christ's follower was not just to help people be absolutely certain they were going to heaven after they died. Paul's goal was to help them become fully formed, mature in Christ, here and now- to experience the glorious realities of being in Christ and experiencing Christ in themselves."*

This is an interesting thought, and this book seems to be full of them. I think that this book is important because it reminds us that (re)discovering and (re)learning is a vital part of our Christian faith. When we make the mistake of thinking we have finally "made it," we have just begun.

-Phil

**Pete Swank** had bypass surgery on his right leg on Tuesday morning in Indianapolis...**Kaden Koebecke**, Jack & Sue McCoy's 2-year-old grandson, had his first chemotherapy on Monday at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. This first treatment went well...**David Henke** is home after spending a few days in White County Memorial Hospital last week...**Paul Marks** spent a couple of days in Clarian Arnett Hospital while doctors determined new medicine treatment...**Susan McFadden**, childhood friend of Brian Guthrie, has a brain tumor. She is married with one small child...**LeAnn Egle**, Lynae Stafford's sister, will have surgery on July 6...Continue praying for **Carol Bell, Ginger Maxwell-Spenard, Oscar Miller, Ann Vaught, Diann Doty, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, 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.

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner is a "blind-date style" opportunity for you to share in small group fellowship this summer. Each host (*we need volunteers to host the meal*) will select a main dish and be told how many guests to expect. Guests will be given an address to go to and a dish to bring to complete the meal. We hope you will be blessed by breaking bread with your Christian family on **July 26**. Please sign up on the back of your yellow card (*to be a guest or a host*) by **July 12** so we can put together groups. See Burgess Brown, Mindy Hart, or Vicky Martin if you have questions.



Dear Church family,

Many thanks to all the people who showed up to help move me. I want to especially thank Greg and Chris Sutherlin who organized it. Everyone was great and it was very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

In Christian love,

Margaret Gustafson & Janet Woodfill

Dear Family at Elmwood,

Thank you for your love, prayers, cards, visits, food and flowers. The surgery went well and we are delighted in God's blessings beyond expression. The Bell family has been greatly blessed by your prayers and we appreciate your continued prayers for Carol's healing and speedy recovery.

In Christian love,

Carol, Bill and Peter

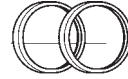
I would like to express to all my thanks for your prayers and cards during my hospital stay and the recovery period. May God's blessings rest on you all! -Oscar Miller

Thanks to your prayers and God's love and grace, I only have 5 more rounds of chemo treatments left. Please continue to pray for me as I am now experiencing joint pain, finger and toe pain. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, hugs, smiles and loving words.

-Diann Doty



## Just Married!



Congratulations to **Matt & Angie Marks** who were married Sunday, June 28, in Lafayette. They will be living at 2717 Gulf-stream Ln., Lafayette 47909. God's blessings on them and their family!

## Senior Servant's Schedule

The **Senior Servants** meet for lunch (*bring your own*) at 11:30 every first and third Wednesday. They have a wonderful card ministry (*maybe you have received one*) that blesses all those who receive them. If you haven't attended before, give it a try and enjoy the fellowship. Their next meeting is July 1.

## Sunday Night, July 5: Nursing Home Mission

**This Sunday night, July 5**, we will split up into groups and scatter to different nursing homes. We will visit, sing, and share communion with many of our members confined to nursing homes.

June 28, 2009

Class: 175 Worship: 270

Contribution: \$8,267



## Discarding Our Masks

Some of you may not know this about me, but when I was attending Troy University, I was the mascot. That's right! Right up there with Aubie the Tiger, Smokey the Bluetick Coonhound, and Purdue Pete the Boilermaker, I was T Roy the Trojan. My main job was to get people pumped up at football and basketball games and to entertain the kids that were not entertained by what was going on with the games. As a mascot, I quickly learned the universal rules of being a mascot. Things such as: never stop moving, do your best to not show skin, exaggerate all your moves, and the most important rule of being a mascot, never reveal your identity. So, besides some of my closest friends and my family, who wondered where I was during football games, nobody knew who was underneath that humongous, cartoonish looking Trojan head.

Sadly, some of us can say the same thing about our Christian lives. Some of us are Christian mascots who put on our Christian outfits when necessary, but nobody outside of our closest friends and families know who we are underneath our Christian masks. Or it could be the other way around. Maybe we put on our Worldly outfits to fit in and blend in so that people can't see that we are Christians. Let me encourage you to put away the outfits and the masks and to be who you really are. I'll tell you who I am. I am a flawed, imperfect person who is still a sinner, but I know that I have a God who has made me perfect through the blood of his son, Jesus Christ.

*Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done!*  
~Psalm 105:1

This is a reminder for the youth to start preparing and praying for the camps that are coming up, and to let us know if you plan on attending camp. If you have not already informed us, let us know if you plan to go to Cedar Point. Thanks!  
-Randy

## Weekly Prayer Focus

### July Prayer Focus: God's Spiritual Warriors

July 4th celebrates our nation's independence day so let us offer prayers daily for the brave men and women of our armed forces and their families. Their sacrifice gives us our freedom. In the same way pray for our fellow Christians who are persecuted world wide as we heard about this past Sunday. Also, let us celebrate our independence from the fear of sin. Offer a prayer of thankfulness for the forgiveness we receive daily. Pray for the strength to forgive others as well as praying for forgiveness from those we have sinned against. Pray for the strength to overcome temptations.

## You Can Help!



Once again Elmwood will be a collection site for Salvation Army's "Tools for Schools." If you would like to help children in the community with school supplies for the upcoming school year, a box has been placed in the Farris foyer for your donations. Some suggested items: glue sticks, Fiskars scissors (5 in. pointed), zippered pencil packs, 1 inch 3-ring binders, new backpacks, plain pocket folders (no prongs), highlighter markers (yellow), colored pencils (12 count/24 count), solar powered calculators, 8 count large crayons, 8 count regular crayons, Prang oval paints (8 pan), washable markers, notebook filler paper, Pedigree pink erasers, and black, Expo dry erase markers. Bring them anytime during the month of July. Your generosity is much appreciated.



**July 1, 11:30 AM**....Senior Servants meet  
**July 1, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all  
**July 5, 6 PM**....Nursing Home Mission;  
groups will visit nursing homes in the area.

Read:  
2 Chronicles 23-Ezra 5;  
Romans 1-7

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 30: July 20-26

## WELCOME HOME!

### 2 Chronicles 23-36

**Home**, latest novel by Marilynne Robinson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, **Gilead**, tells the story of Glory and Jack Boughton as they have returned to their hometown to care for their aging father. Glory made a fairly easy transition back home, but for her brother, Jack, homecoming was torturous. Prodigal son of the family for the past 20 years, Jack—who had run out of places to go—returned to make peace with a past of which he was ashamed. Not unlike the father in Jesus’ parable, the Reverend Robert Boughton was only too happy to receive his son home. Even so, for Jack the homecoming process was a moment-by-moment challenge.

Jack’s ups and downs are reminiscent of the ups and downs of the people of Israel in the latter part of 2 Chronicles. Distant from God for much of their history, some of the later kings tried to rekindle an obedient relationship with God. Under the spiritual leadership of Jehoiada, a priest, the boy king Joash led the nation back home to God by rebuilding the temple and reinstating the worship of God. But it didn’t last. After the death of his mentor, Joash led the nation back into sin. His son, Amaziah, began his reign by leading the people back toward God, “but not wholeheartedly.” And so it went until too much damage had been done, and the nation was lost.

In 1987, Elmwood invited back “home” about 200 Lafayette-area people who had once called Elmwood “home” but had somehow drifted away. One older woman, new to me at the time, said during the dinner after the morning worship, “Thank you for inviting us! We didn’t mean to leave, but, well, it just happened. It’s good to be home!” How good it was to welcome the woman and her husband, Alice and George Campbell, back home for good.

Coming home isn’t always easy. But home invites. To be home with God and God’s people is the right place to be.

-Gayle Crowe

#### Weekly Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	
Worship	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:45 a.m.
Life Groups	6:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

 Our Vision:  
Knowing Christ,  
Making Christ Known.

#### Elders

Bill Bell	463-1139
Joe Mathews	474-8369
Rick Swensen	463-6822
Don Vice	471-8653

#### Staff

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Gilbert Kerrigan	418-3652
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Sherry Marks, Manager	447-2874
Carol Bell, Secretary	447-2874

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