



At the Table with Jesus

As we get ready to close out our sermons focusing on the Lord's Supper I can't help but reflect on Luke's gospel account. Luke is probably my favorite of the four gospels, for various reasons. If you have time to read through Luke in one sitting notice how often you find Jesus sitting at a table or feeding people. The table plays a large role in his gospel account.

I believe they play an important role in the shaping of the early church's practice of "breaking bread." One scholar suggested that "at every turn Jesus is eating with different kinds of people in varied settings." Another scholar wrote, "In approximately one-fifth of the sentences in Luke's Gospel and in Acts, meals play a conspicuous role."

We should not ignore these "table moments" in Luke's gospel as we think about the Lord's Supper. And these moments also should not be separated from the Last Supper. It has been suggested that the Last Supper is one meal among many, and serves as the climax to Jesus' table moments.

A few years ago I took my small group through a study of Jesus' table moments in Luke. After each lesson we broke bread together allowing the lesson to shape our thoughts during our table time. We learned that at the table:

we are reminded of our mission (5:31)
we experience forgiveness (7:48)
we are called to serve (9:13)
we are reminded of what is important (10:41-42)
we are called to purity (11:39)
we are called to invite the less fortunate (14:13)
we are called to sacrifice (19:8-9)
we see our Lord (24:30-31)

After seeing how much time Jesus spent around tables and how much teaching came from those moments, it is not surprising to hear that the early church devoted themselves "to the breaking of bread," and that they daily went "from house to house" eating together. ~Gilbert

Mission Trip

Last week Katy and I, along with eight students went to the city of Nashville to work alongside an organization called CSM. CSM has a branch in several different cities, Nashville being one of them. CSM makes contact with various ministries within the city of Nashville, and then hosts groups of volunteers and supplies those ministries with the volunteers.

CSM's goal is to provide help for people who need it within the city and to encourage their volunteers to consider how they can apply the ministry principles they learn in Nashville in their hometowns. This trip was very challenging and I think that all the students experienced growth and learned more about the homeless community. Our abbreviated schedule looked something like this:

Tuesday: *Arrive, learn rules and guidelines*

Wednesday: *Eat and serve lunch to homeless and working poor, wash the feet of 20 homeless people*

Thursday: *Spend time with older folks and help them play Bingo, go downtown to find a homeless person to sit down and have lunch with*

Friday: *Make boxes to be sent out to people in need, do construction/deconstruction work on a half-way house that had been in a fire.*

Saturday: *Clean up, visit downtown once more, come home!*

It is impossible to really tell you what this trip was like. There is some more information on the back page of the calendar, but make sure to ask a student about their experience!

-Phil

Ken Nicholson is in room 522 at Clarian Arnett Hospital for tests. If his condition requires surgery, he will be transferred to IU Medical Center in Indianapolis**Ty Anderson**, son of Mandy & Kenny, has pneumonia**Harry Linback**, former Elmwood member, will have open heart surgery at 7:30 AM, Thursday, March 26, at Clarian Arnett Hospital....**Jan Lucas** has finished her radiation treatments. Tests showed the mass in her kidney was a cyst, not cancer! Praise God! She will have a break in treatments until they determine further treatment for the cancer in her spine....**Diann Doty** had her first chemotherapy treatment last Thursday....**Susan (Frampton) Eberhart's** son, **Riley**, continues his recovery at home from bone graft surgery for cleft lip/palate....**Dick Waterstraat** had tests last week for heart-related problems....**David Brutans**, son-in-law of Shirley Farmer, has stage three cancer. A liver biopsy was done on Monday....**Josh Oliver** (20-year-old son of a Church of Christ preacher in Cassopolis, Michigan) is in an asthma-induced coma....**Matt Moore**, friend of Andrea Browell, is hospitalized with a brain tumor and MS....Continue praying for: **Charles Carter** (Marsha Moore's father, stomach cancer), **Charles Moore**, **Justin Thomas**, **Ray Peden**, **Hattie Coffel** (Rosewalk Village), **Mary Tavana**, **Sheryl Willison**, **Ted Heitman**, **Annie Crowder**, **Diane West** (Andrea Browell's sister receiving chemotherapy treatments), **Eric Waltz**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Irene Fox**, **Willie Batts**, **Ethel Cable & Edith McCoy** (Digby House), **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebeke**, **Margie Campbell**, **Valley Stockton** (Regency Place), **Irene Sims**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, and **Minnie Scott**.



**Save the dates:
Vacation Bible
School
June 8-12, 6-8 PM**



The food pantry is always in need of personal items: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper. We appreciate any donations you make.

**Our vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ
Known**

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 April 1.

**March 22, 2009
Class: 164 Worship: 250
Contribution: \$5,380**



**Courtney &
Craig**

James & Pamela Buss
invite you to share and celebrate
the marriage of their daughter

Courtney Machell Buss
to
Craig Robert Hodges

son of William and Amy Hodges
on the 4th of April, 2009,
at one thirty in the afternoon.

The ceremony will take place at
Northside Church of Christ
(812) 282-6272

2510 East 10th Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130

A dessert reception will immediately follow at
Culbertson West
(812) 941-8100

904 East Main Street, New Albany, Indiana 47150

Those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP at
www.mywedding.com/chodges

Driving directions posted on bulletin board



Opportunities to Serve

I'll address adults, first. As most of you know, **Leadership Training for Christ** is just a couple weeks away (April 10-12). Our students are working very hard to get their projects completed and are learning their lines for puppets, drama, singing, etc. One of the things that makes LTC work is the adult volunteers. Your presence at the convention (Marriott East in Indy) is extremely encouraging to our students, but we also need your help. For each of the events we enter students, we need to provide judges, door monitors, etc. If you would be willing to come help us out on Friday evening or Saturday morning or afternoon, it would be greatly appreciated. We are going to need help in the following events: puppets, scrapbooks, drama, singing, art and bulletin boards. If you are able and willing, please let Barb Tilley, Carol Bell, or me know as soon as possible – thanks!

Another area adults are needed is **“bread stewards.”** Recently, our food pantry has been blessed by one of the bread vendors providing us with their “day old” stock. It has to be picked up on Mondays and Thursdays and then brought to the food pantry and stock needs to be rotated, etc. To date, Don Vice, Jim Markle, Gilbert Kerrigan and I have taken care of this, but it would be really nice if we had a couple individuals or couples who could work with this very important project. If you are interested, please let me know – thank you in advance! I know that all of us are intellectually aware that the food pantry exists because of the food drives, etc. but do you know that six to eight different Elmwood folks work in the food pantry every week? Did you know that several adults and teens stock and rotate the products each week? Did you know that we are serving between 400 and 500 families each month? This is an incredibly important ministry and I believe people are being blessed and God is being honored!

Now I'll address an opportunity for the teens. We are always looking for different ways for our teens to serve – the local body, the community, the world at large. A few weeks ago, Katy Travis started a new job with the county and it is working directly with teenagers. Her group is currently looking for members of the **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)**. The YAC is made up of student's from eighth grade through seniors in high school. The students are from around Tippecanoe County and attend local schools and/or churches. YAC allows young adults to be active with their community. Some activities include being involved with Red Ribbon Week: attending the Red Ribbon Week Community Breakfast, looking over data for documents for the Drug-Free Coalition, and reviewing and writing youth grants. Participation also allows students to have their opinions and views to be heard. By letting their voice be heard, YAC helps the coalition think through ideas that the youth would enjoy participating in.

If any of you or your friends would be interested in the YAC, they can let Katy or me know, or they can contact Laila Lemcharfi at dftipp.ypc@gmail.com. The group meets every third Sunday in the afternoon for an hour. The group is always looking for new faces. This is a great opportunity for you to have a Christian impact on our community! Serve on! – Lee

Baby Shower for the Welters, March 29



A baby shower for **Heaven & Matt Welters** is **this Sunday afternoon, March 29, from 2:00 until 3:30**, at the Boyds' home, 3528 Indianbrook Dr., Lafayette. You may give money for a group gift to hostesses, Gina, Mindy Hart, or Katy Travis. Gift ideas? Call Mindy.

Setting the Scene for Vacation Bible School

Sessions for creating VBS decor will take place on Wednesday nights during the months of April and May. We will meet at 6:00 PM in room 102 (former preschool room near the kitchen). If you would like to help, bring your dinner (if desired) and join us for part or all of the sessions. Everyone is welcome and appreciated. Looking forward to a God-glorifying VBS!
-Michelle Robson

Budget Plans for 2009-2010

Our Treasurer, Bill Hodges, is requesting all ministers, deacons, and ministry leaders to submit their spending requests for the coming fiscal year. If you have a need for funding for the 2009-2010 operating budget please make this known to Bill. This initial step, while tedious and time consuming, will serve as the basis for the elders to complete an Operating Plan for the congregation for the next year.

As always, our goal is to use the funds God provides, through your generosity, to fulfill our congregational vision of “Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.” Your cooperation in this process is appreciated.



March 25, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
March 29, 2:00-3:30....Baby shower for Heaven & Matt Welters, Boyds' home, 3528 Indianbrook Dr., Lafayette
March 29, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ

Read:
Proverbs. 1-14;
1 Thess. 4-2 Thess. 1-3

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 15: April 6-12






Hope or No Hope

A Christian's hope as used in the scriptures has to do with the expectation of getting or attaining something desired. The something **desired** is the hope of salvation by God through Jesus Christ. Faith in the promises of God is the basis of our hope. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). God has made many promises through the scriptures. If the conditions were met, there is a record that God kept His promises. The fact that we believe God, underscores our hope. This is the inference in Paul's statement to the Thessalonian church. "Don't grieve (you have hope) like (the "others") who have no hope." This passage is often read at funerals to give comfort to those Christian relatives and friends who are still alive as opposed to those who were already dead. They (Thessalonian Christians) had overlooked the power of the resurrection. Paul's lesson is... don't grieve because there is hope for all who believe and obey the teachings of Jesus.

We know from our personal experiences that hope helps us to be encouraged or keeps us from being discouraged. For example, a mother hopes her daughter will marry a man able to support her enough so that the daughter will not have to work as hard as the mother did. A father hopes that his son will marry a girl who will take good care of his grandchildren. How about a hope that is dashed when the first grandchild flunks kindergarten? Some in this generation hope that the football goes over the goal line, the basketball goes through the net, the golf ball goes in the hole, the runner is safe at home plate, or more seriously, that the son doesn't total the new car, or that the husband gets a raise in pay (or in these days that he keeps his job).

Difficult times are predicted to be ahead of us and may tend to test our faith in God and/or dim our hopes about God's promises. But, remember that the hope God promises will be attained and does not depend on the Dow-Jones average or the CBS evening news. Let's pray that God gives us courage as we all strive and hope for that eternal goal. -Bill Farris

P.S. A nice encouraging song is number 538 in our songbook, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." I recommend it.

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



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