



Invited to the Table

This month we are focusing on the early disciples' devotion to the table, or *breaking bread*. In Jesus' day the table held a prominent position in society. It was a symbol of hospitality, friendship, family, and acceptance. To sit at someone's table said many things about the relationship between you and that person. It symbolized your strong bond.

To be invited to sit at someone's table was a special honor. The mere invitation proclaimed a message within itself. To be admitted, or invited, to someone's table was a sign a lifelong devotion and undying loyalty. Perhaps this is the background to Psalm 23 when the psalmist says, "*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies*" (v. 5).

In his book, *Sunday Dinner*, Willimon writes about this Psalm and says: "*I once heard a story about a nomad being pursued across the desert by his enemies. The desperate man comes upon an encampment. He rushes up to the tents, hoping that these strangers will receive him. He runs up to the head tent and throws back the curtains. The inhabitants have just begun to eat. Breathlessly he looks into their faces. Will they receive him or turn him away? They motion for him to enter and be seated. He breathes a sigh of relief. His pursuers finally reach the camp. They go to the tent he has entered. They also throw back the curtains, ready to seize the man and kill him. But when they see him seated at the table, they draw back and leave him in peace, for they know that in the Near East it is a great act of hostility toward the host to trouble a person who is seated at someone's table.*"

Each and every week we are invited to eat at the Lord's table. It is his invitation to us. It is an invitation that speaks of Jesus' lifelong devotion and undying loyalty to those who will accept his hospitality. God truly is good!
—Gilbert

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

The Game

Our minds are funny things. With our minds we can imagine great things, we can create, think, reason, develop, invent, improve, etc. We have been blessed with the ability to think, and let the information that we have access to guide our actions and intentions. Our brains are quite amazing - with more processing power than even the best computers, and with the benefit of self-awareness, morality, and true decision making capabilities.

Yet, our brains have definite limits. There was a "game" that was going around not too long ago called "The Game". The rules were simple: the goal of the game is to not think about the game. When you think about the game, you lose and start over. When you lose you must say (to anyone in particular - preferably to those who are in the know) "I lost the game". The only way to win the game is to forget about it!

A similar principle can apply to our spiritual lives, however our spiritual lives are not a game. Sometimes we forget that the best way to not sin, is to run away like Joseph. Thinking about sin, even if the purpose is to think about how much we hate it can lead us directly into that sin - that's the danger of temptation!

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3). -Phil

Adult Education Announcement

The Stone-Campbell Movement and its Heirs - a special 7-week, Wednesday night class to begin this month.

Bob Waltz will be teaching a new class on *restoration History* in room A-2 (the fellowship room) beginning March 11. Other regular Wednesday night classes will continue as usual, but this will be another elective class that adults may want to choose to attend. Here's Bob's preview of the course:

Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address of the Christian Association was drafted in 1809, a full two centuries of history has passed since. This brief seven-week class will look at the movement and its heirs, e.g., the Churches of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, and the Christian Churches. A review of the Declaration and Address, some of the key personalities, and discussions of critical doctrinal issues in the course of our common history will be presented for discussion and thought. If you like stories, history, and a thoughtful discussion on how Churches of Christ came to be as a movement, maybe even sometimes enjoy a good laugh, then join us for this brief study on Wednesday nights.

-Joe Ruhl

Wedding Shower for Courtney & Craig

On **Sunday, March 15, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM**, Betty Brown and hostesses, Mindy Hart and Vicky Martin, will host a wedding shower for **Courtney Buss and Craig Hodges** at the home of Betty and Chuck, 3530 E. 200 N., Lafayette. Contributions for a group gift may be given to Betty, Mindy and/or Vicky. Come and extend your congratulations and best wishes to the newly-weds-to-be. Their wedding will be April 4 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Diann Doty will begin chemotherapy treatments in 2 weeks....**Jan Lucas** has a PET scan on Wednesday. That will determine the course of her treatment..... **Kalea Lamb**, newborn infant daughter of John Marks' nephew, Mike, and his wife, Kristen, is being tested for an abnormal blood disorder. They live in Boston....**Ray Peden** is recovering at Seton (located in St. Elizabeth Hospital) from heart surgery....**David Brutans**, son-in-law of Shirley Farmer, has colon cancer. He will have surgery on March 10....**Robert Ruckh**, father of Sally Smith, had surgery (3rd in 3 months) on Monday....**Sue Woody**, Joe's mother, had successful surgery at Mayo Clinic to remove a malignant tumor from her kidney....Continue praying for the following people who are recovering from surgeries or have chronic illness: **Justin Thomas, Pete Swank, Dick Mow, Joe Henn** (*Peter Tavana's grandfather*), **Mary Tavana, Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister*), **Dick Stout, Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Willie Batts, Ethel Cable & Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Margie Campbell, Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, and Minnie Scott.**



Elmwood family:
Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, visits and the concern you've shown. I am getting stronger and healing. Your prayers are still needed as I face radiation and/or chemotherapy. God is good!

-Jan Lucas

Snow Servants



The snow servants this week (3/1-7) for light snow removal are **Phil & Katy Travis, 248-229-7904.**

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour (spring forward) on Saturday night.

March 1, 2009
Class: 184 Worship: 300
Contribution: \$12,432



The Recognition of Joe Ruhl as Elmwood's newest elder



Praise God! **Dan Donohue** was baptized on Monday morning at 10:30am by Gilbert. Dan and his fiancée, Vicky Nelson, have been attending Elmwood for a number of months. They were the Kerrigans' neighbors when they lived in their duplex at the Vineyards. Be sure to congratulate Dan on Sunday. Also, Dan and Vicky will be united in marriage by Gilbert on March 14th.

Budget Plans for 2009-2010

Beginning this week, Treasurer Bill Hodges will be 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.

Men's Breakfast, March 12, 7:43 AM



The men will enjoy breakfast together on **Saturday, March 12, 7:43-8:59 AM**, in the fellowship room (A-2). Indicate on your yellow card on Sunday if you plan to attend. After breakfast there will be time to pray together.



March 4, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

March 8, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet

March 15, 2-4 PM...Wedding shower for **Courtney Buss & Craig Hodges** at Betty & Chuck Brown's home

April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ

Read:
Numbers 32-Deut. 13;
Acts 17:16-21:16






2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 12: March 16-22

What Are Your Idols?

As I was reading Acts 17:16-21:16, I got to thinking about idols. In chapter 17 Paul travels to Athens, a city known for its idols. Everywhere you would turn, there would be a statue, a stadium, a theater; *something* devoted to a god. In The Message, the city is referred to as a “junkyard of idols.” Obviously, this didn’t sit well with Paul. He was furious, in fact. So what did he do about it? In typical Paul fashion, he discussed it with anyone he came in contact with. He even went to the Areopagus. The Areopagus, or “hill of Ares,” was a high court, with extensive authority on religion and morality in Athens. These were not stupid people, and Paul knew that. He was very well-informed when he spoke to them; showing he had knowledge of their gods and even quoting their own writers. His main point however, was to unveil their fallacy in trusting in their idols. Paul pointed out in his address to the court (in Acts 17:23), that he had noted even a statue to an unknown god. He basically told them they no longer had a need for these idols. He was telling them about a God, *the* God, who created this world and everything that inhabits it. He was telling them that everything they believed in was wrong. Talk about guts.

Just taking a quick glance at my own life, I’m starting to realize how many idols I’ve created. Now I’m not talking about the little statues... I don’t think that practice has stuck with many Americans these days. The official dictionary defines an idol as a false god, a likeness of something, an object of extreme devotion, or a false conception. And the Kelsey dictionary defines an idol as anything in my life that bumps God down a notch on the to-do list. Something is always more important, more urgent, more exciting, more... you can fill in the blank. What are your idols? What keeps you from spending time with your Maker? What can you do to keep God at the top of your list?
-Kelsey Sutherland

 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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