



On the Shoulders of our Women

Luke goes to great effort to demonstrate the important roles women played in the ministry of Jesus. One scholar points out that Luke makes mention of more women in his gospel account than in the other three combined. I want to encourage you to read through Luke's gospel account and make note of all the women he mentions, and then do the same thing through Acts.

I love the simplicity of Luke 8:1-3. There Luke records, *"After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means."* It was because of the generous support of women that much of Jesus' ministry was able to be carried out.

How true is that of our churches today? I believe many of our churches are carried on the shoulders of our women, and all too often they get very little credit. I remember hearing a preacher talk about a time he visited a very small church one Sunday. He made mention of the fact that this church had the most amazing bass voice he had ever heard. He then went on to say, *"I could not wait until church was over so that I could go meet her!"*

I've heard stories of men getting up to lead singing only to nod his head at his wife so that she could actually start the song for him. Women are the backbone of our children's Sunday School experience. Women keep your ministers on task in the office during the week. Women make sure we have bread to break on Sunday mornings. Women provide the men with much needed examples of expressing compassion and benevolence to those hurting in the church. Must I continue with my examples?

In no way do I want to suggest that what women can do is limited only to these things. I only want to show that women do, in fact, do these things, and these things probably would not get done without them. In many ways, Elmwood stands on the shoulders of great women who rarely get recognized for their extremely important contributions.

I want to take this time to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our women at Elmwood. May God continue to open doors of ministry opportunities for you in this church.

-Gilbert

The Discipline Of Spiritual Tenacity

*The following is excerpted from
"My Utmost for His Highest"*

by Oswald Chambers

"Be still, and know that I am God."

~Psalm 46:10

"Tenacity is more than endurance, it is endurance combined with the absolute certainty that what we are looking for is going to transpire. Tenacity is more than hanging on, which may be but the weakness of being too afraid to fall off. Tenacity is the supreme effort of a man refusing to believe that his hero is going to be conquered. The greatest fear a man has is not that he will be damned, but that Jesus Christ will be worsted, that the things He stood for - love and justice and forgiveness and kindness among men - will not win out in the end; the things He stands for look like will-o'-the-wisps. Then comes the call to spiritual tenacity, not to hang on and do nothing, but to work deliberately on the certainty that God is not going to be worsted.

If our hopes are being disappointed just now, it means that they are being purified. There is nothing noble the human mind has ever hoped for or dreamed of that will not be fulfilled. One of the greatest strains in life is the strain of waiting for God. 'Because thou hast kept the word of my patience.'

Remain spiritually tenacious."

All I have to add is "Amen"!

-Phil



A baby shower for **Alison & Will Wade (daughter and son-in-law of Joe & Gail Ruhl)**, will be hosted by Seth Mullen at his home, 4418 Lakevilla Drive, West Lafayette, on **Sunday, March 27, from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock** in the afternoon. donations for a group gift will be accepted by Seth and hostesses, Carol Bell and Amy Hodges. Alison and Will are registered at Target and Babies 'R' Us.

Snow Servants

Phil & Katy Travis are on call for light snow removal this week, February 20-26. You can reach them at 248-229-7904 if you need assistance.



*Thank You
to...*

*Dear Church Family:
Thank you so much for all your prayers, calls, cards, food and offers of food. Church family, you are so special and important to me.*

*In Christian love,
Delores Nolan*

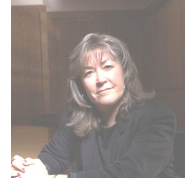
February 20, 2011

Class: 185 Worship: 241

Contribution: \$6,231.61

Women's Retreat, February 25-26

The **Women's Retreat** is this **Friday and Saturday, February 25-26**, at the Elmwood building. Our speaker is **Jackie Halstead**, frequent women's events speaker from Lipscomb University. Her theme for the weekend is **"Be Still and Know That I Am God,"** with emphasis on prayer. There **WILL BE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE** for **Saturday's activities**. Please let Christi Branstetter or Kristi Smith know if you will be bringing your children. You may call Kristi Smith (497-1662) to let her know if you are bringing a card table (*we need them by Wednesday night for set-up*). It's not too late to sign up—even if you can only make part of the retreat. You will be blessed by hearing our speaker and enjoying the fellowship with other women. The schedule is:



Friday

6:30-7:00	Worship (singing, prayer, scripture)
7:00-8:00	Session #1 – <i>The Listening Side of Prayer</i>
8:00-8:30	Small groups

Saturday

9:00-9:30	Worship
9:30-10:30	Session #2 – <i>Prayer in Community</i>
10:30-11:00	Break/visiting
11:00-12:00	Session #3 – <i>Wasting time with God</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Group Activity
1:30-2:15	Session #4 – <i>Be Still and Know That I Am God</i>
2:15-3:00	Small groups
3:00-3:30	Reflection and Wrap-up

New Picture Directory



We'll begin taking pictures for our new directory in less than a week. If you haven't scheduled getting your picture taken, please contact Bill Hodges (449-1255) about a time. As of February 22, we still have 28 times available for scheduling your picture. All times on February 28 and on March 12 are now full. If you need a date that is full, contact Bill and he'll attempt to get a time trade made. We also need a few more evening volunteers to greet people as they arrive to get their pictures taken. Thanks

for your help as we move through this project as it takes the cooperation of a lot of people.

Children at Elmwood,

Many thanks for all the surprises in the sack of goodies you gave me for Valentines Day. I would like to give each one of you a big hug. –Margaret Gustafson



*A Note
of Thanks*

Dear Children of Elmwood and their teachers,

THANK YOU for the very special Valentines and gifts that I received last Sunday. It was so very nice of you. Please accept my appreciation.

*God be with you,
Joan McConnell*

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18-20 ILLUMINATE @ Rochester, MI
March 25-26 REVOLVE @ Columbus, OH [girls only!]

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I'm not necessarily a math fan. My mother, bless her, is a math tutor and teacher and tried as hard as she can. Words and their meaning have always seemed more significant to me than figures or numbers to describe things or lend evidence to a perspective.

The number in our title is an EXTREMELY significant one to me, though, especially after experiencing Winterfest in Gatlinburg with many of you this past weekend. The last car left the parking lot last Sunday night at an estimated 9:30 pm. If we were to leave at 6 am next year for Winterfest (I know, don't hold your breath ☺), we will have roughly 31,328,326 seconds between then and next year. I'm sure many will want to scramble to check my math, and I could be off by a thousand seconds or so (that's only a shade over 16 minutes, by the way), but my point is that's a lot of seconds.

Our theme this year was "Worthy", and whether you were there or not, whether you are young or old, I want to remind you of something significant: Our God is Worthy of our Praise and Adoration. Winterfest was an excellent experience, and believe me, those were some of the most meaningful 228,600 seconds I've had in quite some time, 228,600 seconds that were very easy to place God in His proper position at the head of my life. But the whole point of that event, and events like it, are to point us to those 31 million or so seconds in between called "daily life." God owns those seconds too, and it is both our delight and responsibility to choose how to best give Him what already belongs to Him.

The challenge for us is to undergo a perspective change, to see God in those 31 million seconds. Sometimes we will find ourselves in places where it's easy to devote those seconds to Him, and other places we find ourselves in will be extremely difficult to see. But one thing is for sure; He is the only one worthy of spending my precious seconds on. Anything else, as the Teacher in Ecclesiastes said, is like chasing after the wind trying to catch it in my hands and own it; purposeless and without reward.

We're going to talk more about changing our perspective next week as well, but for this particular set of 604,800 seconds, my challenge to you is this: God owns these. God is the only one worthy of each tick of your life. How will you commit these things to Him and see each second as an opportunity to "offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God"? I pray He may open your eyes to his Worthiness this week.

In His Grip, Travis

Lori Miller had gall bladder surgery last week....Jan Swensen, brother of Rick, has melanoma....Gene Dilling's mother is in IU Hospital in Indianapolis in serious condition....Continue praying for Jan Lucas, Max Raines, Patty Vice, Betty Lucas, Joshua Nelson, Lorraine Weckerly, Michelle Mullen, Bill Gibson, Annie Crowder, Mike Kinsinger, Marceena Miller, Kaden Koebecke and Marie DeWoody.



In the military: Tim Beghtol is in Afghanistan....Josh Martin is still in Iraq. Matthew Kauffman is now in Germany. Joe Newman is in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: Dovie Hurst, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters Hattie Coffel, Argie Verett, Valley Stockton, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Willie & Calvin Batts, Phyllis Gray, Carolyn Rigdon, Linda Bilyeu, Vickie Sanders, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, Delores Hill, and Wanita White

Senior Servants Schedule

The Senior Servants will meet on Wednesday, March 16. Beginning in April, the Senior Servants will resume the regular meeting times the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Food Pantry Needs



The food pantry is always in need of personal items: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet

paper. Anything you donate is such a big help and much appreciated.



February 23, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
February 25-26....Women's Spring Retreat! Jackie Halstead, of Lipscomb University, speaking; not too late to sign up
February 28-March 3; March 10-12....Picture taking schedule with Olan Mills at the church building
SAVE the DATE: March 27, 2:00-4:00 PM....Baby shower for Alison & Will Wade at the Mullens' home, 4418 Lakevilla Dr., WL

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

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 9: February 27-March 5

Overcoming the Gates of Hades

Part of our reading for this week is Acts 5:17-29 where the apostles are thrown in prison for preaching the good news about Jesus. As tragic as this sounds, we are told, *“But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out”* (v19). And, yet, we find this kind of trial turned victory as a pattern in the book of Acts. In chapter 12:1-19, we read how Peter was again put in prison with a likely death sentence to follow, but an angel of the Lord rescued him during the night. And, again, in chapter 16:16-40 we read about Paul being thrown in prison for casting out an unclean spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus. But, again, there is an earthquake that shakes the jail to its foundations releasing, not just Paul and Silas, but everyone in the jail from their bonds and chains. The Holy Spirit had emboldened these men to stand up for the name of the Lord Jesus with the confidence that he was with them and would grant them victory for the glory of his name, raising them out of the peril of death to new life and service. When Peter was being released by the angel, we read, *“They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it”* (Acts 12:10). In a way, the author is telling us that the gates of Hades could never overcome God’s kingdom people. It is with this confidence and hope that we may, with Paul, note death’s vanishing sting and lay it all down in service to our King.

–Joshua Brainard

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 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Staff	Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.	Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 Travis Hutchinson 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	



Elmwood
CHURCH OF CHRIST

2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

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