Elmwood
CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Newsletter for Elmwood Family and Friends

Vol. XXXV, No. 26 June 28, 2011

Knowledge

In LIFE Group this past Sunday my group was discussing healthy knowledge versus unhealthy knowledge. Someone in our group read a passage that really stood out to me. He read from 1 Corinthians 8:2. Paul writes, *"Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know."* We can know lots of things, even about the Bible, but still run the risk of not yet knowing as we ought to know. We can abuse our knowledge, even our knowledge of the Bible.

How do I know if I know as I ought to know? How can I measure whether or not I am abusing my knowledge? These are the questions that my group wrestled with together.

Let me share a couple of thoughts about healthy knowledge versus unhealthy knowledge:

- **Healthy Knowledge** seeks to use that knowledge to build others up.
  1 Corinthians 8:1
  Unhealthy Knowledge seeks to hold their knowledge over others.

- **Healthy Knowledge** speaks the truth in love and grace.
  Ephesians 4:15
  Unhealthy Knowledge likes to debate and belittle.

- **Healthy Knowledge** leads to obedience and love for others.
  1 John 2:3-10
  Unhealthy Knowledge sees knowledge as an end unto itself.

- **Healthy Knowledge** starts with a healthy fear of God.
  Proverbs 1:7
  Unhealthy Knowledge fears no one.

I am sure that you could come up with a longer list, but I feel like this is a good starting place. This list provides a good measuring stick. The Bible makes it clear that knowledge is a good thing to pursue, but makes it just as clear that knowledge can make us arrogant and prideful. There is a fine line that exists between healthy knowledge and unhealthy knowledge. We must be constantly aware of where we stand in relation to that line.

Do you know as you ought to know?

-Gilbert

Proverbs

When I was in elementary school, I was in a Sunday school class where it was our assignment to read the entire book of Proverbs each week. I'll never forget the lessons I learned from the Proverbs. Reading it so many times helped make it one of my favorite books of the Bible.

Proverbs is in the genre of wisdom literature. There are several other books in the Bible such as, Job and Ecclesiastes, that are also considered to be wisdom literature.

Wisdom literature's purpose is to help guide its readers to living life well. Proverbs reminds us to "let another praise you, and not your own mouth–a stranger, and not your own lips" (27:2). It reminds you not to" wear yourself out to get rich; be wise enough to desist" (23:4), and tells of the value of having, or being a wife of noble character. *Why do you think I married so well? Thanks Proverbs!*

Though I have read the book many times, I am still confronted by God's Word when I read through it again. It is a reminder that "the word of God is living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

I encourage you to read through Proverbs this week. Allow it to inspire you. Allow it to surprise you. Allow it to challenge you.

–Phil Travis

Shirley & Willard Farmer celebrated 52 years of marriage on June 28. Our sincere congratulations and wishes for many more!

Wedding Shower for Whitney & Jeremy

Chris Sutherlin is hosting a wedding shower for **Whitney Wolpert and Jeremy Bartlett** on **July 10, 2-4 PM.** Hostesses, Betty Brown, Dorothy Miller, Joyce Mathews and Carol Bell will receive donations for a group gift.

A Note of Thanks

A big thank you to **Tommy Bartlett** for repairing the riding mower deck and to **Gary Steele** who repaired and painted the railing in the front of the building recently. Their work is greatly appreciated. Thanks, also, to those men who helped with removal and installation of the railing. *–Greg Sutherlin*

June 26, 2011
Class: 143 Worship: 236
Contribution: $6,450.15

David Black's post-surgery news is great! He was able to go home on Sunday afternoon....**Seren McWilliams** 8-year old daughter of a friend of Bill & Sue Adams, had a stroke while having surgery for a brain aneurysm. She is in the hospital in Arizona....**Darlene Emmert**, Vicki Vaught's mother, is still in the hospital with some complications following her surgery....**Lorraine Weckerly** is having medical tests for recent health problems....**Mark Andrews**, cousin of Betty Brown, is at the University of Kentucky Hospital awaiting a lung transplant....
Continue praying for **Ted Holderfield, Kevin Verett, Jan Lucas, Mary Lou Baugh, Cecil Thomas, Sherry Scoggin, Steve Curwick, Patty Vice, Marceena Miller, Armilda Follick, Kathleen Cable, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebcke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Max Raines,** and **Jan Swensen**.
Update on our missionary young men: **Ben Stafford (Africa)** has returned and is with his family on vacation in the east; **Alex Abston & Chris Manfred (Peru)** are on their way home. Praise God for their servant hearts and dedication to minister to others.

In the military: **Josh Martin** is in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Ruth Carter, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Argie Verett, Dovie Hurst, Bill Gibson, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore,** and **Annie & Elaine Crowder.**

Congratulations to John and Athena Henke who were married on Saturday, June 25, in Burnettsville, at an outside wedding ceremony performed by Travis Hutchinson. Their address is: 12839 N. 350 W., Burnettsville, IN 47926. Phone numbers: 574-581-0056 (John) and 574-808-0370 (Athena).

Financial Situation

In the last Elders'/Ministers'/Deacons' meeting Bill Hodges presented the following figures: our income this fiscal year (2010-2011) is $464,000; our projected budget for the coming fiscal year (2011-2012) is $540,000. A large part of the difference between this year's income and next year's budget is caused by the need to make significant maintenance repairs on our property: replacing our aging air conditioning system, replacing deteriorating carpet in the church building, providing computer hard and soft ware required by the government for reporting individual's contributions, and sundry physical maintenance items that need to be addressed. Many of these items have been put off in the past but we need to cope with them now. If each family increased its giving $10 a week we can meet this challenge.

—The Elders

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

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.

Outside the Plans

You know you've really been working on a car when, during the cleanup shower, you notice that the suds going down the drain are black. I replaced my ball joints on the Jeep yesterday, a small but significant part of my suspension. They are quite difficult to replace (at one point I had both my axle shafts out and sitting in the corner of my garage). But I was confident; I had a plan, my Haynes manual, and a step by step walkthrough on the internet with pictures. I can do this!

The plan, if followed, said things would go smoothly and take about 4 hours. By hour number 8, I think it was safe to say that things were not going according to the plan. Even when you've got detailed instructions for a repair, it can't take into account things like rounded off bolts that have to be cut off, or old ball joints that break into pieces instead of coming out like they are supposed to. Plans are good, but then they meet this thing called reality, and adjustments have to be made.

I will confess that while I am fairly easy going, when I have a definite plan in mind I want things to go that way and when they don't it can become a source of frustration. I'm sure I'm not alone in this regard. Yet life has a way of deconstructing our plans in a hurry. Sometimes the result of this is inconvenience. Other times, it is catastrophic; we plan on the test coming back negative, or we plan for the relationship to last, or we plan for that car to actually stop at the stop sign. Then life takes us outside the plans, and we are left wondering what we're supposed to do.

During a break for lunch yesterday I read this in Proverbs 16:9, "*In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*" While sometimes this verse may seem like God is at odds with our plans (and if our plans are something that doesn't glorify Him, He very well could be), I don't take this to mean that God is micromanaging us. Instead, I think this passage has to be viewed through the eyes of wonder, like I talked about a few weeks ago.

There is a rhythm to what God is doing all around us, and I think it is when our plans fail, when the rhythm we might set for ourselves is broken, that He gives us the opportunity to raise our eyes up and see what He is up to. I hope you hear the power in the statement Solomon makes: when your plans are falling apart, God is still up to something in your life. It leaves us with a definitive choice; we can either embrace the frustration of having our plans frustrated by reality, or we can embrace the opportunity to pause and consider God. The latter choice allows us the comfort of knowing that He sees, He hears, and He is concerned. It also motivates us to envision our lives outside of our own plans and priorities and in the greater arena of how God is directing life. Sometimes that alone makes broken plans the best thing that can happen to us.

Maybe things are going "according to plan" for you right now. Maybe every step you are taking looks nothing like how it is supposed to in the manual. Either way I hope you will embrace this truth: God is up to something bigger around you, and His desire is for you to be aware of it and caught up in it. May you have eyes to see and ears to hear what He is saying and doing in your life, even when it is "outside the plans".

–In His Grip, Travis

Upcoming Youth Events:

July 8-14, Camp CUMO: open to all incoming 9th graders and up, cost is FREE! I have staff applications and duty sheets ready for you. We need them back by July 1st so that Mike can get things ready for us.

July 17-23, Spring Mill, open to all middle & high school: time is running out to register for this session. If you have already registered, let me know. If you need to register, you can go online to http://www.springmillbiblecamp.org/ and download your form.

It's an Open House

Mindy Hart has bought a house and wants everyone to know where to find her. Come see Mindy's new place and help her celebrate this **Saturday, July 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM** at 1514 Lionheart Lane, West Lafayette. No gifts—just Best Wishes! Questions? See Mindy or Carol Bell.

Me? A LUM Camp Counselor?

Would you, or someone you know, make a good LUM Camp counselor? LUM Camp will take place the week of August 1-5. Volunteers must be 18 years old, enjoy working with children and be able to spend the entire week at camp from 11:00 AM on Monday, August 1, to 4:00 PM on Friday, August 5. Committed volunteer counselors are at the heart of a successful LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice in accomplishment, help nurture self-esteem and support each child throughout the wonderful week that is LUM Camp. A comfy bunk in a rustic (air conditioned) cabin awaits you! All you need is the availability and willingness to have a fun week with a great group of children. Call Joe Micon for additional information (423-2691) or visit www.LafayetteUrbanMinistry.org.

June 29, 5:45 PM....Budget Class in media room; taught by Janet Boston
June 29, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
June 29, 11:30 AM....Senior Servants at Golden Corral
July 2, 2-4 PM....Mindy Hart's open house
July 10, 2-4 PM....Chris Sutherlin will host a wedding shower for Jeremy Bartlett and Whitney Wolpert

Read:
I Chron. 6-25; Matt. 19:1–22:22

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 27: July 3-9

Read for yourself this week's scripture reading from Matthew. In 3 ½ short chapters, we see Jesus caring for the ill, Jesus being tested by the Pharisees, Jesus instructing his disciples to let the little children come to him, for it is to them that the Kingdom of heaven belongs, and the young man inquiring of Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. And this all occurs in only the **first half** of chapter 19. Proceeding through the rest of the assigned reading in Matthew, we find Jesus teaching crowds through parables, Jesus teaching in the Temple, and once again we find Pharisees trying to entrap Jesus.

I love to read these gospel stories over and over again, sometimes quickly to refresh my memory of them, sometimes slowly, to let every word sink deeply in. While reading in Matthew this week, I decided to read over the assignment quickly, and try to be aware of God speaking to me through His word. I was struck quite strongly with the passage in Matthew 20:29-34. Jesus is leaving Jericho , followed by a large crowd. Two blind men sitting by the roadside call out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" They are told to be quiet, but they persist, and when Jesus asks what they want, and they reply that they want their sight, Jesus has compassion on them and touches their eyes, giving the precious gift of sight back to them. They respond by getting up and following him.

I am struck by the fact that these blind men call out for **mercy**. They don't plead with Jesus about how unfair their situation is. They don't say they deserve sight. They don't demand justice, or ask for retribution on those they feel are responsible for their blindness. **No**! They ask for **mercy**, and it is granted. I don't know about you, but when I stand before my Maker on judgment day, I don't want justice. I don't want what I deserve. I pray for Mercy.

May God be merciful to all His children,
Farrell Simmerman

Weekly Schedule

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.

Our Vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known.

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