



Called Into Ambiguity

Kate and I had the opportunity to attend the Tulsa Workshop last week. This is a wonderful event held in Tulsa, OK, every year at the Tulsa Expo Center. Thousands of people from all over the nation gather together for a week full of great teaching and awe inspiring praise and worship.

One of the messages that stood out to me was a message from Don McLaughlin. He reminded all of us that **faith almost always calls us into ambiguity**. Webster defines ambiguity as uncertainty. We like to be certain about things. We like to make decisions based on certainty. According to McLaughlin, faith takes us beyond certainty - it calls us into uncertainty or ambiguity.

Often referred to as the father of faith, Abraham's life seems to line up well with this idea. Over and over again, Abraham is held up as this great man of faith, and, while he did many things that could be considered faithful, it is usually one defining moment in his life that is held up as the example of faith. In Hebrews 11:8 we read, *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* Do you hear the ambiguity faith called Abraham into? *Even though he did not know where he was going.*

Noah is also held up in Hebrews 11 as one who's faith called him into ambiguity. We read, *"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family"* (11:7).

I believe God still calls us to take steps of faith into ambiguity. I believe God is eagerly waiting for churches to take steps of faith into ambiguity. Too often our decisions are made out of fear, out of calculations, out of comfort, out of certainty, etc... Decisions made that way require little, if any faith. I have made too many decisions in my life that required very little faith. I believe God wants so much more out of me. God wants so much more out of his churches.

God is waiting to bless those who take steps of faith into ambiguity.
Where is faith taking you today?

-Gilbert

What's Coming Up in April?

It's almost April already (it very well may be by the time you read this) which means the school year is quickly coming to an end. It also means that our annual end-of-the-year events are coming up quickly as well.

April 16th, the CSC will be hosting our annual Root Beer Kegger party. It's a great way to close out the year! As always, Elmwood members are more than welcome to come to the CSC and check out all the fun!

On April 30th we will be saying goodbye to our graduating seniors. We have four students that are graduating in either May or December of 2011, and we will honor them and celebrate their time with us at our annual Senior Banquet. Our graduating seniors are:
Abigayle Fivecoate (December)
Ben Kline
Melissa Willison
Heather Willison (December)

Be sure to find these students and congratulate them on a job well done, and come support them at the banquet if you can. We have 65 openings available for students, adopted parents, and other Elmwood members that are interested in attending.

Please continue to keep the Campus Ministry in your prayers and thank you so much for all of your support

-Phil Travis



Special collection for Japanese

We collected \$3,572 from our special collection on Sunday for the relief efforts taking place in Japan. If you were not able to contribute on Sunday, there is still time. You can bring your contribution by the office this week, or give it to one of the elders, deacons or ministers. Thanks for your generosity!



A Note of Thanks

Thank you so much for your support and prayers for my son, Joshua Nelson's previous surgery to remove his spleen and his most recent open heart surgery. All went well and he is doing really good.
—Vickie Donohue

Leadership Training for Christ April 22-24, Indianapolis

March 27, 2011

Class: 151 Worship: 250

Contribution: \$7,107.50

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.

Kaden Koebecke was able to go home on Friday night! He will need to return to Riley for daily hemo dialysis for the next couple of months. Praise God for his progress!!...**Farrell Simmerman** came home on Sunday night after heart surgery last week. He is doing well and will follow up with his multiple doctors in the next 2-4 weeks....**Bill Gibson** was transferred to St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital (in St. E. Central) on Monday night. He has a long recovery ahead of him...**Joshua Nelson** had successful heart surgery last week in Indianapolis....Continue praying for **Elaine Crowder, Patty Vice, Jan Lucas, Max Raines (chemo treatments), Phyllis Gray, Marie DeWoody, Lyn Hiser, Jan Swensen (melanoma), Betty Lucas, and Marceena Miller.**



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 (now in Cumberland Pointe), Dovie Hurst, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Argie Verett, Valley Stockton, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Carolyn Rigdon, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, Delores Hill, Wanita White and Annie Crowder.**



Our sincere sympathies to **Thelma Hoyt** on the death of her son, **Les Laughlin**, on Monday in Nashville, Tennessee. He had recently been on life-support. Thelma's daughter, Susan Kisinger and her husband, will take her to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for a memorial service—probably held next week.

Congratulations!

Andrew DeWoody is this year's recipient of the 2011 Purdue University Agricultural research Award. This award is the highest honor given by the College of Agriculture's Research Office and reflects the exceptional contributions Andrew has made to the field of ecological and evolutionary genetics. Andrew is the first-ever recipient of this award by a faculty member in Forestry and Natural Resources. His award ceremony and presentation will be held in the Dean's Auditorium in Pfendler Hall on May 2, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Andrew's presentation is entitled, "Vertebrate natural history in the 21st century: genetics, ecology, and evolution."

Congratulations, Andrew! We know his wife and daughters—Yssa, Taylor, Audrey, and Marie—are so proud.



We are in need of volunteers—men or women—to run the sound board during both Sunday morning services, and volunteers to operate the powerpoint slides/video during services. If interested, indicate that on your yellow card on Sunday morning or call the church office at 447-2874.

God's Rhythm

Last Saturday didn't feel any different than usual. The day started normally, and I took Raegan with me to Sharon's moving party. I hadn't planned on doing too much with the rest of the day, just getting ready for class and a few other things. Then God decided to throw me a curve ball. He had Sharon mention her apprehension about being able to drive out there with her brother with the size of the truck and trailer. Immediately, I felt God's Spirit saying, "Pay attention." So I found myself on a road trip to West Texas. I had some plans, but God had different ones, ones that turned out even greater than I thought. But I'll get to that in a second.

The Spirit of God is constantly speaking opportunities into our lives to serve him in ways, big and small, that threaten to upset our plans. The question is twofold for us: first, are we making space to hear Him, and second, are we willing to upset the rhythm we might have established in our lives in order to move to God's rhythm.

Don't get me wrong, I know we have responsibilities, and we need to be responsible people in the way we handle our lives, our work, and our families. I'm also not implying that God is micromanaging things, moving us like pieces on a game board. But I do think He sets up situations that place choices in front of us every day to hear His call and move to His rhythm of life.

If my life is too full of the noise of self or business, there is no way I will be able to hear God's rhythm pulsing throughout the lives and situations around me. Even more than that, I know there are times that each of us can recall (and I can recall quite a few!) when we heard that call clearly, and chose, out of fear or comfort or just plain apathy, to continue to move in our own rhythm instead of letting the Spirit disrupt us to move into His rhythm. For me, memories of those times are often marked with a wistful "I wonder what would have happened if..."

Something amazing often happens when we do allow those disruptions, though. God returns more on his investment in us than we would have believed, and we actually find ourselves being used as conduits for His redemption and restoration of the world around us. When we become willing, God is ready to do things that are much more than we imagined, in both great and small situations. We actually accomplish the purpose for which we exist; to bring God's name glory through how we live.

When I got to Texas, I felt a prompting to look up an old college friend I hadn't seen in years, just to catch up. As it turns out, he experienced a major tragedy in his life just a few weeks ago and was feeling alone and broken and needing encouragement. So God randomly had his old roommate show up halfway across the country from a random road trip in order to have dinner with him and encourage him and pray over him.

Our God is a magnificent God, who puts us in just the right places to both hear and become a part of His song of redemption for Creation when we are willing to listen for His rhythm. My prayer for you this week and every week is that you will have ears to hear, and a heart that is willing to say, "Yes."

In His Grip, *Travis*

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20 Area-wide event with David Bowden
April 22-24 Midwest LTC Conference

Richardsons here this weekend

Former Elmwood campus minister, **Ryan Richardson**, and **his wife, Beth**, and their children will be in Lafayette this weekend. Ryan will be a guest teacher on Sunday for the combined adult classes in the auditorium. He will be telling us about the upcoming mission work he and Beth will be doing in Africa.

Secret Sister Revealing

Revealing the identity of your secret sister is planned for **April 30, from 2:00-4:00** in the afternoon in A2/fellowship room. Plan to attend and 1) bring a gift for your secret sister, and 2) bring a favorite dessert for the dessert bar. If you can't attend let Vicki Henke (574-943-3515) or Joyce Flynn (491-8159) know.



Kare for Kaden Bag

Help us care for Kaden Koebeck by collecting small toys, books and activities. Because Kaden has to spend a lot of time in hospitals and doctors' offices, we thought it would be fun for him to have some new things to do. Please keep cost under \$5. You can give the items to Annabelle or Spencer Pitt by April 10th. Thanks!



March 30, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
April 3...**Ryan Richardson** (former Elmwood campus minister) will be talking to the combined adult classes
April 3, evening....LIFE Groups meet
April 30, 2:00-4:00 PM in A2....Secret Sister revealing
April 30....CSC Senior Banquet
June 13-17, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School—save the dates!
June 25, 7:43-9:00 AM....Men's Breakfast in A2 fellowship room

Read:
Deuteronomy 31-34; Psalm 41-55
Acts 27-28; I Thessalonians 1-3

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 14: April 3-9


For about a year, I've really struggled with times when I just simply don't feel joyful. When I'm not living joyfully, I feel guilty (which, ironically, doesn't increase joy). As a daughter of the Most High God of the Universe, what cause could I possibly have to be downcast? At church, it's so easy for each of us to put on our joyful, happy Christian faces and answer, "Fine," anytime someone asks us for me). I think I can safely say that there honest, could answer those questions with for asking." Although I know that several feelings of non-joy, it's really easy for me 42 and 43, the psalmists paint a picture of with feeling down and defeated while the Lord. They write of their tears being forgotten by God. In the same psalms, them through the night and the dark and relate with these psalms! I know that the Lord is my source of constant joy, yet I still struggle with not feeling that joy. Three times in these two psalms, the authors write, "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." I love how this phrase captures the internal struggle while affirming that, no matter what, our solid foundation that cannot be shaken is our Savior and our God. My challenge for me (and I hope you'll join me in this) is to remind myself and all of you that, 1) we're not alone in our struggle to focus on our joy from God and that 2) we can be confident in the Lord, our steadfast Rock.

*"Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God."
Psalm 43:5*

how we are doing (or at least it's easy are times that all of us, if we were "Actually, I'm pretty down. Thanks of my friends struggle with similar to feel alone in my struggle. In Psalms a similar internal battle – they battle knowing that they *should* be joyful in their food and of feeling rejected and they write of God's song being with of God being their *joy*. How much I

–Rachel Ravellette

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 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 Travis Hutchinson 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

 **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

Periodical
Postage
PAID
at
Lafayette, IN