



The Nuts and Bolts of Our Mission

I want to share with you our plans for the summer as it relates to our Sunday evening activities. Over the past couple of years I have experimented with different approaches to our Sunday evening services throughout the summer. Our goal is to have as many people as possible involved. One thing I believe is pretty clear is that our LIFE Groups give us the best option to make that happen.

This summer we are going to offer Summer LIFE Groups. These groups will be facilitated by Elmwood's ministers and elders. If you were in a group this past year that had an elder or minister associated with it then your group will stay in tact. If your group did not have an elder or minister associated with it, you are free to join one of the groups listed below:

- **Bill Bell** - TBD
- **Joe Matthews** - Elmwood Building
- **Joe Ruhl** - Dan and Vicky Martin's Home
- **Rick Swensen** - University Place
- **Travis Hutchinson** - Bart and Melanie Collins' Home
- **Gilbert Kerrigan** - Gilbert and Kate Kerrigan's Home
- **Phil Travis** - Phil and Katy Travis' Home

Please note that there will be a group meeting at the our church building if that is your preference.

Our Summer LIFE Groups will meet in June and July. The topic of study will be our mission statement: *Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known*. I believe it will be beneficial for all of us to have the opportunity to discuss our mission statement together, and to hear those discussions being facilitated by the leadership of this congregation.

I want to encourage all of you to be a part of one of these Summer LIFE Groups. If you have never been in a LIFE Group, this is a great time to try them out. The groups will only be meeting June and July. I am excited about these groups this summer. I'm anxious to hear about all of the great discussions that will be taking place in regards to our mission statement.

-Gilbert

Flee as a Bird

The song "Flee as a Bird" is one of my favorite hymns. It's not super well known, or sung very often because it sounds rather like a funeral dirge, but then, that's why I like it. It's somber melody and slow moving lyrics express a lament in a way that most church songs don't allow us.

I believe that lamentation is an important part of the Christian life. After all, Jeremiah wrote a whole book of the Bible full of lament! The book of Psalms also has many psalms which are full of lament. Here is a portion of one: *"How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us" (Psalm 80:4-6).*

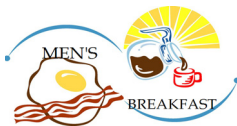
It's not often that we hear this sort of lament in our average services, and yet I think it is important to know that we do have an example of being honest with God, even when we are upset, or angry with God, when we are sad or depressed. God knows when we are angry, whether or not we give voice to it. I believe that when we do give voice to our emotions, we are able to give that anger or sadness to God and the power of lament, the power of honesty with God, to move towards a closer relationship with him.

-Phil Travis



You made my 90th birthday so special! Thank you so much for all the birthday cards and phone calls. I am so fortunate to be associated with such a warm- hearted, loving group of Christians. In love, Argie Verett

Your many acts of kindness during the passing of my dear son and Susan's brother, Les, were much appreciated. We are especially thankful for Joe and Gail Ruhl coming and staying with me the night I received the unexpected and painful news of the death of my dear son, Les. Thank you Joe and Gail. May the God of all comfort be with us all.
—Thelma Hoyt & Susan Kisinger



Save the date! The next Men's Breakfast at Elmwood is **Saturday, June 25, at 7:43 AM.**

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of cereal, soup, and personal items.



...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" (Matthew 25:35).

May 1, 2011

Class: 164 Worship: 261

Contribution: \$10,071.50

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Armilda Follick had successful hip replacement surgery on Monday at St. Elizabeth East. She is in room 3S28....Irene Sims has returned to Creasy Springs after elbow surgery last week....Continue praying for **George Kenworthy, Jim Willison, Betty Brown, Thelma Hoyt, Linda Weeks (lung cancer), Kaden Koebecke, Mickey Rigdon, Oscar Miller, Vickie Sanders, Farrell Simmerman, Marie DeWoody, Joshua Nelson, Elaine Crowder, Patty Vice, Wanita White, Jan Lucas, Max Raines, Carolyn Rigdon, Phyllis Gray, 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: **Bill Gibson, Ruth Carter, Dovie Hurst, Dorothy Walters, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Argie Verett, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, and Annie Crowder.**

Wedding Shower for Allison & Jonathan



Chuck and Betty Brown will host a wedding shower for **Allison Cummins and Jonathan Davidson** on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 until noon. They are registered at Target, Macy's, and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Money for a group gift may be given to Vicky Martin or Katy Travis.

Decorating for VBS, May 4, 7 PM

This **Wednesday night, May 4, 7:00 PM**, come join the fun as we begin decorating for Elmwood's Vacation Bible School which will be June 13-17, 6-8 PM. Everyone will meet in the old 3 year-old classroom (room 102 across from Dorothy's office). If anyone is especially good and fond of organizing, you are most welcome as we will be going through the accumulated materials that are stored in the barn and upstairs classroom. Thanks for your help.

—Dana Miller & Michelle Robson



Ben Stafford to Zambia

Ben Stafford will be leaving in 3 weeks for Zambia. He will be able to take an extra suitcase with him filled with items for the children in Zambia. Suggested items are **baby & small children's used clothing, toothbrushes, & stickers.** If you would like to send items please give them to John or Lynae Stafford by May 11th. Please keep Ben in your prayers.



It's Your Move...and Mine Too

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Orange Conference in Atlanta along with Nicole, Danae Casteel and Kate Kerrigan. I can honestly say it was an experience like no other, and I think the things we learned will have a great effect on the strategies we use to shape our family ministry in the months and years to come.

Orange is primarily a family ministry strategy, but one of the underlying values of that strategy is mobilizing the church to be the church, and the family to be the family, so that we can synchronize these two powerful, God-initiated influences in the lives of the next generation. Much of the theme of the conference this year centered on the concept of movement, how you and I are designed by God to be in motion, rather than stagnation. From a physical standpoint, when we move our skills increase, our talents improve, our instincts sharpen. Potential becomes actual. Without movement, we atrophy; muscles weaken, joints deteriorate, potential evaporates. What is true for the body is also true for the soul. God designed us to move in the spiritual; working, striving, growing and stretching in His Spirit, watching potential become actual as our movement becomes the gateway for Him to move in our lives and the lives of those we influence.

But how often do we really move? Spiritually, we talk a lot about moving. We think about moving. We create strategies for moving. We excite ourselves emotionally about the possibility of moving. But at the end of the day, it remains ambiguous whether we've actually moved or not.

I'll be coming back to this idea again, but I really want to challenge us today with this: If potential doesn't move to actual, it's not movement. God's work in us should be actual, not theoretical, says the apostle James (2:12-18). Our movement in God is going to look intentional, and it's going to be a consistent striving. And while we may not see it daily, when our movement in Christ becomes actual, we will be able to look back and chart the progress of where and how God has been directing our steps.

I'll leave you with this quote, a daily challenge that still hangs on my bathroom mirror as a reminder each morning to make my movement in Christ actual, because I am trading something dear for it:

"Today is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it, or use it for good, but what I do with this day is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded it for. I want that to be gain and not loss; good and not evil; success and not failure, in order that I will not regret the price that I have paid for it."

May the God of Compassion, Joy and Perseverance direct your steps as you Move.

**In His Grip,
Travis**

ELMWOOD youth ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| May 13-14 | Refresh Youth Rally @ Salem, IN |
| May 15, 6 PM | High School Graduation Celebration |
| May 29-30 | Year-End Shebang & Lock-in! |
| June 9-11 | Mission 2 Muncie |



Easter Sunday, April 24, **Julie Guthrie** put on the Lord in baptism. Some information you might not know about Julie: Brian and Julie met in Dayton, Ohio, dated, and were happily married on July 2, 2010. She is a Cross-Dock Manager for Crate & Barrel (a regional distribution that services 5 stores and 5 states). Julie loves the outdoors and fitness. Hobbies include running, working out, triathlons, etc. If you'd like to send her a card, they live in Dayton during the week at 2465 Cypress Point Road, Apt. G, Fairborn, OH 45324. On weekends they come home to 334 Laurel Drive, West Lafayette, 47906, to be with Brian's children, Jack and Georgia. Congratulations, Julie. We are so happy to have you as part of the Elmwood family!

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!



"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2). This is the theme for the 60th National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 5**. The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. It is a day to seek God's guidance regarding our

nation's policies and actions, and pray for those in various positions of leadership and influence. You are invited to participate in the events being held in Lafayette: the Prayer Gathering at Riehle Plaza, **12:10 PM**; and the City-wide Night of Worship at the historic Trinity United Methodist Church downtown, **7 PM**.



May 4, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
May 8, 6 PM....Worship at Elmwood
May 14, 10:00-noon....Wedding Shower for Allison Cummins & Jonathan Davidson at Chuck & Betty Brown's home
May 15, 6 PM....High School Graduation Celebration
May 22, 5 PM....Elmwood Block Party
May 24, 7-9 PM....Women's game night—bring finger foods
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:
I Samuel 4-21; Mark 13-16

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 18: May 8-14

The Three Rugged Crosses

I had a lot of fun growing up in an eleven-member, gregarious family. During the school year we skipped across the field to our one-room schoolhouse. There we were taught the three “R’s” – reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic – taught to the tune of a hickory stick. Each evening after finishing chores we would eat together around a huge oak table. Often my Dad would tell us about the three rugged crosses; a different set of three R’s.

My Dad said it was a dismal day, darkened by the sun and the three crosses were holding three men facing death because of sin. The three crosses represent Redemption, Repentance and Rebellion. We were taught that Christ who was in the middle was not guilty of sin. He died to save us from our sins. He bore the cross of Redemption.

The other two were robbers and were going to die because of their sins. However, one robber had a heart that was submissive to the Savior, a heart that was serious and sensitive to sin. He asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his Kingdom. He wanted to be saved and take part in Christ’s kingdom. Christ promised the repentant robber he would, “be that day with him in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). He bore the cross of Repentance.

The third cross bore a robber that had a rebellious calloused heart, one that blasphemed our Savior. He was within arms reach of the Savior, he witnessed God’s grace. He refused to ask Christ for forgiveness. He chose to bear the cross of Rebellion.

I often reminisce about my school days and learning the three R’s but more importantly, about sitting around the old oak table listening to my Dad teaching us about the three rugged crosses; the most important set of three R’s Redemption, Repentance and Rebellion.

Which cross do I pattern my life after? Do I have a heart that is willing to give all, a heart of repentance? Or, do I have a calloused, rebellious heart? I pray each day that I will grow closer to the old rugged cross, the one that gave all. –*Thelma Hoyt*

|  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 |
| Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. |  Staff | Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com |
|  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 | Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774 |

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