



No Room for Boredom

It is easy to find ourselves in a rut. Church can become routine and predictable. We can simply go through the motions. We can find ourselves doing church out of obligation, rather than out of desire. Church can become boring.

I know some of you are going to take offense at that last sentence. You may even respond with, “*Church is not supposed to be fun and games!*” I’m not suggesting that it should be all fun and games when we are gathered together on Sunday mornings. What I am suggesting is that when we gather together as a church there should be some excitement.

I recently ran across an article that echoed these sentiments. In the article the author backed up his thoughts by stating:

- The Bible is **NOT** boring—the teachings of God’s Word are more relevant and exciting than anything on the planet.
- Jesus was **NOT** boring – to see His life lived out in the Scriptures AND to see WHO HE IS should inspire AWE, not apathy!
- Our message is **NOT** boring – Jesus was DEAD, came BACK TO LIFE and offers us the same opportunity, to cross over from death to life and be reconciled to God—THAT’S AWESOME!!!
- The Book of Acts is **NOT** boring – there is NOWHERE in the book of Acts that ritual replaced relationship!

I would suggest that if church has become boring to you, or if your walk of discipleship has lost its spark, then you need to go back and read the Gospel story. The Gospel is good news! No one yawns at good news. It is an exciting message of hope. If the tomb is empty, Jesus is ALIVE and HOPE is possible then HIS church should reflect that.

Our God is all-powerful. Our Christ is very much alive. Our promised Holy Spirit is full of power. How exciting!

-Gilbert

Serving the Servant

Mark 10:35-52

It is telling that Jesus’ purpose on Earth was to serve others isn’t it? Here we have a contrast between a blind man’s request and the request of James and John.

When Blind Bartimaeus calls out for Jesus to help him, Jesus responds with “What do you want me to do for you?” Or, perhaps to highlight his servant nature, it would be better translated, “How may I help you?” What a servant response! The creator and sustainer of the universe speaks to this man as a servant speaks to one he serves!

While James and John are scheming for power, Jesus is actively placing himself below a blind man who moments ago was shushed and rebuked by everyone around him. James and John follow for the hope of power, Bartimaeus follows for the love of the Messiah.

Yet again we see Jesus take time to care for those on the margin. Yet again we see Jesus place himself below those who are the lowest. His servant heart is shown in its fullest in his crucifixion, but his entire life is filled with service. We serve a servant king. I once heard the term “Christian” described as “little Christ.” Can we call ourselves Christians without serving in the same manner Christ himself served?

Do we serve the servant? Having been cured of our blindness, do we follow him on the road? Or do we ask more from him? Do we ask for power and authority—that which he himself rejected? How can you serve the servant today?

-Phil



Joyce Mathews had shoulder (rotator cuff) surgery on Monday. She is at home recuperating....**Pete Swank** had another heart procedure last Thursday. One stint (instead of two, as planned) was put in....**Don Vice** has a slipped disc in his lower back. A shot has helped relieve the pain, with another shot planned in the near future....**Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** is recuperating at home....**Cami Koebecke** (Jack & Sue McCoy's daughter) hopes a feeding tube will be put in place for **Kaden** later this week....Continue praying for **Mary Ford, Vickie Sanders, John Ruckh, Delores Hill, Annie Crowder, Jan**

Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Dorothy Walters, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.

In the military: **Matthew Kaufman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is with the Navy in Chicago.



Dear Elmwood Family:

I wish to thank all the people who attended my birthday reception and all who sent cards and remembrances. Love from Florida to all of you. -Sara Postlethwait

Thank you to members who sent me cards while I was away for medical reasons.

-Kaylee Oliver (Purdue student)



Good Sense Budgeting Course Scheduled

Marriage counselors tell us 50-70% of marital conflicts center around money. This is why we at Elmwood want to help marrieds as well as singles to be good stewards with their money...to free us up to avoid conflicts in marriage as well as relationships with family members. To quote author Ben Patterson, "There's no such thing as being right with God and wrong with your money". (See Matt. 6:21 and 6:24; Matt. 13:22 and 1 Tim. 6:10 among others). (Source: WCA Good Sense Ministry – Newsletter 1-15-2010)

The G\$ Budgeting Course will begin February 17, 2010, in the Conference/Media Room at 5:50 p.m. each Wednesday evening for six (6) weeks. Each class will conclude at 6:50 p.m. for ample time to attend the regular Bible Study classes.

A sign-up form will be available in the Farris Foyer for registration. This course is free and you will receive prework information before the DVD sessions begin. Registration is due by February 10, 2010. **THE GOOD SENSE COURSE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.**



Women's Ministry

Hedi Devine is hosting Ladies' Night Out with a movie and hot chocolate. The movie begins at 7:00. She'll furnish hot chocolate, no food, but bring a food pantry donation. For directions to her home, call the church office, 447-2874.

Elmwood men will be serving the women breakfast on **Saturday, January 30, 9:00 AM.** Save the date!

Also, be planning for the **Women's Retreat on February 26 & 27.** The Friday session will be 6:30-9:00 PM. Saturday is from 8:30 until 4:00 PM. Childcare provided.



They Will Be Missed!

We are saddened at the departure of **Craig & Courtney Hodges** who have moved to Virginia for new jobs. Their new address:

3350 Glade Creek Blvd. NE
Suite 2, Roanoke, VA 24012.



Charles & Jennifer Neville
3310 Peppermill Dr.
Apt. 2C
West Lafayette 47906
Phone: 409-3213



Ladies' Breakfast

The Elmwood men will be serving breakfast to the women on **Saturday, January 30, 2010, at 9:00 AM.**

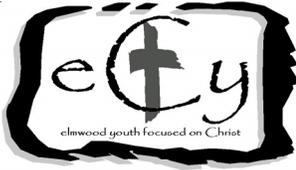
January 17, 2010

Class: 162 Worship: 293

Contribution: \$6,153

A check for \$1,287 (Christmas Card Fund) was sent to James Connection, the orphanage in India

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Youth Group Schedule

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesdays InnerMission @ 7PM, in B.O.B.
Sundays Class & Coffee @9:30 AM, in B.O.B.; LIFE Group @ 5:30 PM (various locations)

LIFE GROUP

January 24 @ the building - pizza & crafty service project
January 31 @ the Coates' house - with their LIFE Group

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 1/29 Movie Night, "To Save A Life" (time TBD) **High school only
Saturday 2/13 Common Ground @ 7 PM, the Casteel Casa
2/19-2/21 WINTERFEST

Haiti Relief

WFR Relief Ministries is a faith based disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization providing immediate response to emergency disasters through sister churches, their leaders and missionaries. They desire to help people, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion to the glory of God. WFR Relief Ministries seeks contributions to facilitate acts of Christian compassion directed by local churches of Christ. This is a ministry of the White's Ferry Rd. Church of Christ, of which Mac Owens is an elder. Mac and Mary visited with us last year and shared their testimony on a Sunday morning.

Since 1980, the success of this ministry has been characterized by the meeting of real needs, targeting the very poorest and helpless, and successful advancement of the cause of Jesus Christ. They help deliver medicine, agriculture supplies and implements, and desperately needed food. Often they are able to make possible clean water and home gardens. In demonstrating concern for human suffering through local Christians, WFR Relief Ministries is confirming God's love.

There are currently a number of WFR Relief workers in Port-au-Prince assessing the needs and determining how WFR Relief Ministries can best minister to the people there. The money we collect (so far \$4,310) for Haiti will be sent to this ministry. You may still send money to the church. Bill Hodges will send a check after Sunday.



Former longtime Elmwood member, **Bud Darby, 85**, died Friday afternoon, January 15. He had numerous health problems in recent months and had been living in Alabama near his daughter, Linda Dunham. Due to Bud's health situation at the time, a memorial service for Mary, who died several months ago, was postponed. Linda, Becky, and James wish to have a memorial service for both of their parents on Saturday, **January 30, 2:00 PM**, at Elmwood. No funeral service is being planned in Alabama.



Week of January 17: New Year - New Attitude: Often our attitude, good or bad, will determine how we feel and how we treat others. Pray that we will always show a clear Christian attitude. Pray that we have a joyful attitude that others will know about our God and Savior through our life. Pray that our love, faith, and hope will show our Godly spirit in our attitude. Pray that God will use us and give us the attitude of a servant and a humble spirit.

Praise Team feedback

In November Elmwood began using a praise team on Sunday mornings to enhance our worship and make it easier for people to sing praises to God. The end of January marks the end of the 3-month trial period, and the elders are interested in your feedback. If you didn't already respond on your yellow card, please e-mail the church office this week with comments or suggestions about the praise team trial. Has it succeeded in making the singing more effective or easier to follow? We want to know. *-Josh Boyd*



January 20, 7:00 PM...Bible classes for all
January 22, 7 PM...Ladies' Night Out at Hedi Devine's with movie & hot chocolate; bring donation for food pantry
January 24, 6 PM...LIFE Groups
January 30, 9 AM...Women's breakfast at Elmwood
January 30, 2:00 PM...Memorial service for **Bud & Mary Darby** at Elmwood
February 12...LOCK-IN for 1st-5th graders at Elmwood
February 26, 27...Women's Retreat

Read:
 Romans 9-10; Genesis 16-19;
 Joshua 21-24; Ps. 12-14; Job 9-10;
 Isa. 23-28; Matt. 11-13

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 5: January 31-February 6

Mustard Seeds

Sometime during the fourth or fifth grade Challenger program, the gospels (the life of Christ) are studied. The children not only study the events in Jesus' life, but how He used parables in His teachings. As we look at the topics of the parables, we find that a number involve farming or growing things, like the sower and the soils, the parable of the weeds, and more. We conclude that this process of growing things is familiar to Jesus' audience.

One of my favorite parables is found in Matthew 13:31-32, "...The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Every time I read that parable, I am reminded of a mustard seed necklace I once had. Maybe you had one too. Encased in a small glass ball was a tiny speck. I was told it was a seed. I don't know. I was familiar with seeds (corn, peas, okra) that were planted in the garden, but this was so small it was hardly recognizable. And yet we are told this tiny seed grows into a plant so large its branches support the weight of a bird. Let's compare the growth of this tiny seed to our spiritual growth. The seed (word of God) is planted in our heart and from there it is cultivated until our faith grows strong. Is your faith growing as strong as the mustard seed plant? At Elmwood, there are many opportunities to help you grow your faith in Christ - for all ages. Take that first step of faith and get involved.

-Carol Bell

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139</p> <p>Joe Mathews 474-8369</p> <p>Joe Ruhl 463-7012</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p> Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>	<p> Staff</p> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Phil Travis 743-0954</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST

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