



A Grace Surprise

He deserved whatever he had coming to him. He was an ungrateful child who had the gall to ask his dad for his future inheritance to be handed to him right then and there. He was selfish, foolish, irresponsible, and lazy. He ran off to become his own man and he ended up squandering every bit of money that had been given to him. He was a disgrace to the family name. He had broken his father's heart. He had burnt many bridges. Yes, he deserved whatever he had coming to him.

There was also this guy who worked for this well respected family. He really had it made, but he ruined it. He, too, deserved whatever he had coming to him. He was not a very good worker to begin with, but the family he worked for always took care of him. One day, without even a note explaining why, he vanished. I don't think it was any coincidence that a few of the family's valuables vanished that very same day, but I shouldn't speculate. What I do know is that he left, and his quick flight left the other servants with extra work to do. Yes, he deserved whatever he had coming to him too.

The amazing thing is that neither one of them received what they deserved. The first guy went back home to his father hoping to at least be taken in like one of the servants. What he found was his father waiting at the door; the same place he had stood every day since his son ran off. His father greeted him with a warm embrace and celebrated his return (Luke 15:20). Not exactly what I had envisioned.

The second story ended very similarly. The runaway servant (and possible thief) met up with Paul, and Paul convinced him to return. Paul tells the owners of this runaway servant to accept him, not as a runaway servant, but as a brother. Welcome him as they would welcome Paul himself (Philemon 17). Again, not exactly what I had envisioned.

The gospel of God's grace is full of surprises. It may be that you are being called today to surprise someone in your life by living out this gospel of God's grace in their life.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you. ~ Ephesians 4:32*

-Gilbert

That's a Negative

Have you ever noticed how negative our language is when it comes to our spiritual lives? We talk about how we "have" to read our Bible, or we "should really start praying more often." We often say we "have to go to church" and "I need to give more." We use this negative language concerning our relationship with God. We view life with God as a struggle. We think the Christian walk is difficult, so we make it difficult by thinking that the very things that will draw us to Christ and to life, are things that we don't want to participate in.

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction... but small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Mt 7:13-14).

We read these words and assume that Jesus is saying that it should be a struggle to follow him, forgetting that just a few verses earlier he says, "*Seek and you will find.*" Our relationship with Christ is not supposed to be a struggle!

Now certainly, there are difficulties in the Christian walk. We are to be self-sacrificing and counter-cultural. We should plan for a difficult life. They have treated our master harshly so why would they treat his servants better? But our relationship with God and time spent with him should not be challenging! Christ comes to give abundant life, and it is out of that abundant life that we find joy in the spiritual disciplines.

-Phil



Pete Swank will have surgery to remove an abdominal aneurysm on May 7 in Indianapolis. Doctors are still awaiting results from another test done last week...**Dorothy Walters** was dismissed from the hospital and taken to Westminster to begin therapy. She is in room 105. She hopes to improve enough to go back to her home...**Chuck Brown** is doing well as he recuperates at home from knee surgery last Friday...**Steve Cable** is recovering from a kidney stone and infection...**Carolyn Rigdon** will be having heart surgery soon...**Mike Courtney**, co-worker and friend of Steve Cable, was

sent home. No more chemo treatment will be done. Pray for him and his wife and two children... Continue praying for **Diann Doty, Armilda Follick, Wanita White, Ernie Kirk, Elaine Crowder, Valley Stockton, Laurence Clowdus, Greg Holdman's father, Willie & Calvin Batts, Connie & Ken Nicholson, Niel Postlethwait, Kaden Koebecke, Vickie Sanders, Sara Postlethwait, Delores Hill, Annie Crowder, Jan Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Dorothy Walters, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.**

In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan...**Matthew Kauffman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.

Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) May 7-8 in Indianapolis

The 3rd-8th graders have been hard at work preparing for Leadership Training for Christ which will be May 7 & 8 at the Marriott East in Indianapolis. You're invited to come and be part of the audience or volunteer to be a helper. We need enthusiastic and joyful audience participation at the team events and other events like Song Leading. We need Elmwood volunteers for such easy jobs as Door Monitor. Sign up is easy. See Barb Tilley or sign in at the observer table at LTC.

This **Sunday, May 9 at 5:30 PM**, we will feature the **LTC Showcase** at our regular worship time. Refreshments will be served afterward in the fellowship room (A-2). Come see puppets, live modern Christian drama, singing, bulletin boards, scrapbooks, Bible reading, Bible lessons and more! Come, support our youth and the adults who have been working so diligently these last few weeks.



Showers of Flowers

Elmwood is participating in Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center's annual *Showers of Flowers* to create a bouquet of sharing that will encourage and support life. Here's how you can help: choose an envelope from the Showers display in the Farris foyer; enclose the cost of your selection and leave the envelope in the basket provided. Then add your flower from the envelope to the display. The Showers of Flowers display will be in the foyer until Wednesday after Mother's Day. Thank you for caring and sharing!

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center, a Christ-centered ministry, offers life-affirming alternatives to women and men considering abortion by providing education and support before, during and after pregnancy. It is located at 1824 Maple St., Lafayette.

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



May Sunday Night Schedule at Elmwood

- May 9 LTC Showcase**
- May 16 High School Graduation Celebration**
- May 23 Elmwood Block Party, 5:00 PM**
- May 30 VBS Prayer Night**



The food pantry is in need of **soup**. Also, we are always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.**

Senior Servant's Schedule

The **Senior Servants** meet for lunch (*bring your own*) at 11:30 every first and third Wednesday. They have a wonderful card ministry (*maybe you have received one*) that blesses all those who receive them. Their next meeting is **this Wednesday, May 5, at 11:30 AM and then again May 19.**

May 2, 2010

Class: 183 Worship: 272

Contribution: \$12,481.85

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.



Youth Events

Weekly Schedule

Sundays, 9:00 Bible Classes

Wed., 7:00 PM Inner Mission

Upcoming Events

5.7-5.8 LTC Conference

Sat. 5.15 Common Ground Coffeehouse

Sat. 5.22 Youth Yard Sale

Fri, 5.28 Year-End Shebang!

Yard Sale!

"One man's trash is another man's treasure."

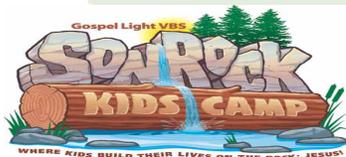


Please donate any items you no longer want or need to the youth yard sale.

We will be accepting small items at the church building starting Wednesday, May 12, and we will start accepting

large items (furniture, etc.) Wednesday, May 19. Don't worry about the pricing, just save up and bring your stuff.

The proceeds of the yard sale will go straight into the youth's lunch sack. The teens talked a couple of weeks ago about being more proactive with increasing the lunch sack, and this is what they voted on doing. We are so excited to see how God is going to continue to grow this, both monetarily in the lunch sack, but also spiritually in our students!



Vacation Bible School, June 7-11

What Can You Bring?

There is a list of props and decorating needs on the bulletin board next to the teachers' work room. Anything you wish to contribute will be most appreciated. We will hold another **workday on Saturday, May 22, at 9:00 in the morning.**

We need one more station leader for elementary crafts. Thank you to all for your help so far. **Be praying for our week of Vacation Bible School, June 7-11.**

Youth Minister Search Update

Having completed the prospectus and job description last month, we began the process of identifying candidates through networking. That is we made contact with people in the church whom we know and who know us to help us identify candidates. People such as Dudley Chancey (OC), and Steve Corp (former youth intern), among others, were contacted to help us. This netted us six resumes (so far). These resumes we are reviewing and will be made available in the conference room for your perusal. We used a similar process in our candidate search for a pulpit minister but we are getting many fewer candidates compared to our experience with the pulpit minister position. In our meeting this week in addition to reviewing resumes we will consider advertising our position opening more broadly. Please continue to pray for this effort.

-Bill Bell

National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 6



National Day of Prayer will be observed this **Thursday, May 6**, with three city-wide events. It will begin with a **prayer breakfast at 7:00 AM**, at the University Plaza Hotel in West Lafayette. The **outdoor noonday observance at the Riehle Plaza** in downtown Lafayette will begin at **12:10**. This gathering will be filled with worship and prayer to God for our

governmental leaders, churches, families and other important areas of our community life. Concluding the National Day of Prayer will be a **city-wide concert of prayer** at Faith Baptist Church at **7:00 PM**.



May 5, 7 PM....Bible classes & LTC events

May 6....*National Day of Prayer* activities throughout the city

May 7-8....Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) at

Marriott East in Indianapolis (check out the article in newsletter)

May 9, 5:30 PM....LTC Showcase; refreshments to follow in A-2

May 10, 7 PM....Prayer Shawl Ministry at

Rose Hunt's home



May 16, 6:00 PM....High School Senior

Night at Elmwood

May 22, 9 AM.... Vacation Bible School workday

May 23, 5 PM....Block Party

May 30, 11 AM-2 PM.... Andrew Simmerman's

Graduation Open House, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette

June 7-11.... Vacation Bible School

Read:
 2 Cor. 9-10; Exodus 25-28;
 2 Sam 15-19; Ps. 57-59; Job
 39-40; Jer. 37-41; Luke 3-4

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 20: May 16-22

Psalm 51

David learned that Bathsheba was a lot more dangerous than any battles he faced. His adultery with her led to deception and disaster. Psalm 51 is his urgent prayer asking forgiveness. It is a striking study in the debilitating power of guilt.

We don't receive mercy because we deserve it but because God is good. David understands this concept. Guilt never lets us rest easy. David acknowledges that, "My sin is always before me." It haunted him day and night. Even though we hurt others with our bad behavior, ultimately our sin is an insulting affront to God. God wants truth on the inside rather than religious performance. Only when we have been forgiven can we be effective witnesses. David knew his testimony was tainted by sin. God looks for confession, not excuses. The sacrifice God wants is a broken and contrite heart.

There is forgiveness if we humbly seek it. David is relieved when Nathan points out his sin. He crumbles in repentance. Even though he will suffer long for his evil, he is reconciled with God.

When we are truly sorry for our sins and ask for forgiveness, it is given. Remember Christ can forgive any trespass, yet He can overlook none. -Don Vice

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 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

 Our Vision:
 Knowing Christ,
 Making Christ Known.



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