



Celebrating a Milestone

Richard Mouw and his wife were driving through northern Minnesota a few years ago and they noticed a church in one of the towns was celebrating its centennial. There was a big sign on the front lawn of the church property that read, *“One Hundred Years of Grace.”*

Mouw has commented in an article he wrote that this sign really caught him off guard—in a good way. He found that statement to be a wonderful way for a church to describe its presence in a community. Most church signs that indicate some type of anniversary say things like, *“Serving this Community for a Hundred Years,”* or *“A Century of Ministry.”* Those signs refer to a church’s accomplishments or good deeds. This church, though, described their one hundred years of existence simply as a profound sign of God’s grace.

So often we find ourselves trying to justify our existence, whether as a church or as an individual, by pointing to the things we did during the time that was given to us. We point to our accomplishments and our good deeds. It is like we are screaming, *“Look at what I did with the time God gave me.”* It is similar to the prayer prayed by the pharisee as he stood in the temple: *“I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get”* (Luke 18:11-12).

I hope that one day when I am celebrating some milestone in my life that I will no longer feel the need to justify my existence. Yes, it will be good to hear statements like, *“Fifty years of faithfulness to God,”* or *“Twenty-five years of ministering to others.”* Honestly, though, I would much rather it be said, *“Seventy years of living in God’s grace.”* I want my time to point to God, not myself.

I love these words found in the much loved hymn, “Amazing Grace”: *“’tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.”*

-Gilbert

Bring a Friend

In Darryl Tippens’ book, *Pilgrim Heart*, he writes, *“I came to know about God through my early initiation [i.e. going to church, etc.] I have come to know God through a life of Christian practices, embodied in a community.”*

We often conceive of our spiritual journey as a one-man (or woman) show. The reality, though, is that while there are some individual aspects of your spiritual journey, we are on a journey together. For a successful journey, one that is continually pointed towards God, then we require a community, that is, the church, to help us along the path.

In Philippians 2:12-13 Paul writes, *“...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

There are a couple of common misconceptions in this text. The first is that Paul is saying “figure out” or “earn” your salvation, but he is really telling us to live in a manner according to the salvation you have received. The second is that “your salvation” refers to a single person, and that as individuals we should work out our own salvation. But Paul uses the plural here, so a clearer translation would read, *“Work out all y’all’s salvation.”* Paul is saying that community is as big a part of our spiritual journey as living according to the calling.

Don’t try to go it alone this week. Rely on a trusted friend to help you on your spiritual journey.

-Phil



A Note of Thanks

To my family at Elmwood:
 Thank you so much for your prayers and concern during my mother's long illness and passing. Thanks for the many cards and the beautiful floral arrangement sent to the funeral. Even though I was miles away I felt your presence. God is good all the time. Bless you all. —Camilla Lawson



Willie Mae & Calvin Batts celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 23. We rejoice with them as they celebrate this milestone!

Opportunity to help

Cindy Hubbert is working to gain some support for an orphanage in India (not the one that Elmwood helps support through Rick Swensen's brother). If you are interested in this work, please talk to Cindy.

October 17, 2010
 Class: 182 Worship: 301
 Contribution: \$8,041

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Doris Swensen was hospitalized last week. Doctors thought she was having problems with her heart, but tests showed otherwise. She'll continue to have tests to determine the source of her symptoms last week....**Beth Holt** will have in-office minor surgery on her foot on October 22....Continue praying for **Josh Stafford, Dovie Hurst, Phyllis Gray, Carolyn Rigdon, Henrietta Frampton, Mike Shirley, Beth Holt, Debbie Minix, Linda Bilyeu, Vickie Sanders, Janet Achor, Kaden Koebecke, Charles & Carolyn Moore, Clifford Farner, John Ruckh, Bill & Jeanette Gibson, Dorothy Walters, Jan Lucas, Wanita White, Joe Erwin, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Willie & Calvin Batts, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Hattie Coffel, Eugene Zinn, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Argie Verett.**



In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Josh Martin** and **Matthew Kauffman** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago in Naval training.



Upcoming Women's Ministry Events

November 6....Women's Appreciation Luncheon (for all women)

The women's **October game night** will be held at the Elmwood building fellowship room on October 26. It will begin at 6:30. Barb Newberry is serving as hostess and asks that you bring "harvest goodies."



Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **2:00 PM Monday-Friday.**

- October 21-22* **Choosing Life in the Midst of an Adverse Pregnancy.** Todd and Angie Smith discuss their decision to carry their unborn child to term when they were advised by doctors to terminate the pregnancy because the baby would not survive outside the womb. (Parts 1 & 2)
- October 25-26* **When God Speaks Through Your Children.** Based on his book *How Children Raise Parents*, Dr. Dan Allender explains how God intends to reveal Himself to parents through their children as much as, if not more than, He intends for parents to teach their children about Him. (Parts 1 & 2)
- October 27* **Changing Your Marriage Through the Power of One.** In a discussion based on their book *The Surprising Way to a Stronger Marriage*, Michael and Amy Smalley explain why avoiding the blame game and taking personal responsibility for mistakes is vital to the success of a couple's relationship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10.22 - 10.24 Candidate Weekend
 Saturday 10.23 Common Ground, 7-10p @ casteel casa
 Sunday 11.07 Service Project Sunday, 12n @ church
 Saturday 11.13 Common Ground, 7-10p @ casteel casa

THINGS PONDERED

Don't Fall Asleep by the Fire - Be the Fire!

One of my favorite things about fall is gathering around campfires with good friends. A few weeks ago we had a fabulous evening with the youth and their families around a campfire roasting hotdogs and marshmallows and "dough boys," sharing stories, jokes and voice impressions. Later that evening we circled around a humongous bonfire and sang songs to our Lord.

I treasure time spent with the Body, as we uplift and encourage one another, enjoy good clean fun with each other, and worship the Father together. But I realize I can't always stay there, safely surrounded by my brothers and sisters, who are as warm and comforting as the campfire we sit around. We are called to be a light unto the world. In preparation for the high school class last week, I read this passage from Shane Claiborne's *The Irresistible Revolution*, and I want to share it with you.

When the darkness of our world, and all of the fears we hold in that darkness, are pierced by the light of God's love and by the possibility that God has other ideas in mind for how we are to live, something liberating happens. But there is also the danger of our becoming mesmerized by the dazzle of the light. It can become quite comfortable, like a campfire. We can crawl up into the hands of God and fall asleep in the sweet aroma and cozy warmth, asleep by the fire... My friend John Francis Maher sings a beautiful song that whispers to the groaning masses, "Don't let your eyes adjust to the dark." Perhaps we could also add for those by the fire, "Don't fall asleep in the light." We must neither get used to the darkness of human suffering nor fall asleep in the comfort of the light...

"The darkness of our world will try to smother the light, so we have to surround ourselves with people who make us shine brighter... Christians blaze through this dark world and set it on fire with their love. It is contagious and spreads like wildfire. We are people who shine, who burn up the darkness of this old world with the light that dwells within us. And perhaps the world will ask what in the world passed through here.

"We are not just called to be candles. Candles make for nice Christmas services and for a nice peace vigil. They can remind us that God's light dwells within us and that we are to shine that light in this dark world. But we are not just called to be candles. We are called to be fire. Candles can be snuffed out by the slightest wind or by the smallest child on their birthday. But it's harder to put out a fire. We are to be fire, to weave our lives together so that the Spirit's inferno of love spreads across the earth."

— danae

**Youth & Family Minister
 Candidate to visit**

This weekend, **October 22-25, Travis Hutchinson** will be visiting us to interview for the Youth and Family Minister position. As with candidates in the past, Travis will speak at a congregational forum Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm in the auditorium to which everyone is invited. Also, he will speak at both services on Sunday. This will be in addition to the specific interviews and youth activities we will conduct on Saturday. Travis will be accompanied by his wife **Nicole** and the youngest of their three children, daughter **Mollee**. A copy of Travis' resume is in the elders' conference room on the counter.



Congratulations to Ann Vaught (grandma) and Jim & Vicki Vaught (aunt & uncle) on the birth of **Elise Vaught** born October 6 to Jon and Deirdre Vaught. She weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces. Congratulations to the Vaught family.

Penelope Hazel was born to Michael & Madeena Coates on October 7 weighing 6 pounds 6 ounces. Steve & Lynia Coates are the proud grandparents. Congratulations!

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



October 20, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
October 22-25....Youth Minister candidate, Travis & Nicole Hutchinson here for interview
October 24, evening....LIFE Groups meet
November 6....Women's luncheon—for ALL women
December 10, AM....Christmas for Everyone

Read:
 James 4-5; Deut 7-9;
 2 Chron. 29-32; Ps. 125-127;
 Eccl. 3-4; Zephaniah;
 Acts 11-12

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 44: Oct. 31–Nov. 6

Zephaniah

The Setting: During the time that Josiah was king over Judah, about 640 to 609 BC.

The Conditions: Josiah’s grandfather, Manasseh, was probably the most wicked king to ever reign over Judah, and Josiah’s father, Amon, was little better. Josiah became king at the age of 8 and began a religious reform during the 18th year of his reign. Zephaniah most likely wrote in the early part of Josiah’s reign and was a contemporary of Jeremiah.

Among God’s Charges Against Judah and the People Through Zephaniah: 1) ‘They neither seek the Lord nor inquire of Him’ 2) They are ‘complacent’...and 3) ‘think the Lord will do nothing either good or bad’ 4) They ‘obey no one’, ‘accept no correction’ and ‘do not trust the Lord’ 5) Their prophets are ‘arrogant’ and ‘treacherous’ and 6) ‘they are eager to act corruptly.

Are people much different today? Do you know people who are complacent or arrogant, or who obey no one, or who don’t seek the Lord?

Zephaniah’s Solution: ‘Seek the Lord’, ‘Seek righteousness’, ‘Seek humility’. We serve a God who ‘does no wrong’, and who ‘morning by morning he dispenses justice and every new day he does not fail’. Zephaniah also tells the people: ‘The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save’.

We serve the same God who is anxious to save us. Will we respond to God any different than the people of Judah?

—Bill & Amy Hodges

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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