



“What a Paint Job!”

“You just can’t get good help nowadays.” I heard that when I was a kid, I hear it now. It was probably being said in ancient Rome and among the Egyptians as well.

Last week I was doing some painting. While preparing the walls before opening the first paint can I was appalled at what I was finding from the last paint job. Trim paint that had ventured too far onto the wall, wall paint brushed on trim areas, spackling that had not been sanded smooth before the wall was painted, holes that had not been filled but just painted over. Mentally I was ticking off the shoddy work, vaguely wondering, “I wonder who did this!?” After coming upon yet another example of faulty workmanship, I began shuffling through the possibilities of who might be responsible for what I was seeing. “Let’s see—the room would have been painted before we laid down the new carpeting—the carpeting was about X years ago—that would have meant the painting would have been done by . . . oh, that would be me.”

Two immediate reactions: “What? No! I would never have done this! I’m much too particular!” Reality check—ding, ding, ding—yes, I was the guy. Second reaction: “Oh, well, it wasn’t really that bad—nobody could see where the wall paint and the trim paint had battled for supremacy, the painted-over spackling was behind a dresser, the painted-over holes are too small to see”

Pathetic. Not only was I the careless painter, but now I’m the waffling moralist. The only honest moment of the experience came about three minutes later when the words of Paul came to mind: “. . . their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them” (Rom. 2:15). Human beings are born with two great skills: we love to point fingers at others when they are at fault, and we are experts at rationalizing away our own faults. I’m not sure which is the most grievous error. Neither one is anything to be proud of. Two of our greatest challenges: to look at others with compassion, and at ourselves with honesty,

The room is finished—but please, check your glasses at the door.

G. Crowe

What Comes Next?

After Gayle’s sermon about the pressures on today’s teenagers, I felt it timely to mention what happens next in the journey for some teenagers: college.

The university setting amplifies these pressures/fears (e.g., fear of future, fear of domestic struggle, etc.) while simultaneously adding new ones as well. They are amplified because of a concept that the teenager has not known before: *total* freedom. Sure the teenager has experienced certain freedoms before in their lives, but nothing like this. Their freedom is total. They can choose exactly how to spend their time, what to study (or not to study), and whom to associate with (with no curfew and with no attendance report for classes). There is no parental supervision and not much guidance. Add to this the pressures of career choice and the need to reconstruct social networks, and it is no wonder that fewer than 15% of the university is currently involved in any of the Christian organizations on campus.

This is why we need desperately to have a growing influence on campus. These students need guidance and, if nothing else, the opportunity to choose Christ out of all the other options from which they can choose. Christ must be a vocal, viable option for these students as they begin to think critically about their lives and their futures. The Christian Student Center does not compete with the other 37 Christian organizations on campus. All 38 organizations are competing with the foothold that Satan has on this campus. Pray for Purdue and pray that the CSC will have a growing influence on this campus. ~Dan



Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. McClain
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter, Mary Rachel
to her best friend, Jared Ryan Fee,
son of Mr. & Mrs. James R. Fee,
Saturday, June 10, 2006, at half past three in the afternoon.
Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana

Reception immediately following serving cake and munchies
Hillenbrand Atrium Dining Room, Purdue University

Prayer Concerns....

Ken Nicholson is now at home recuperating....Continue praying for **Nathan Weir** (newborn receiving chemo treatment for tumor on his liver), **Margie Moffitt**, **Argie Verett**, **Sarah Watts**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Noah Powlen**, **Natasha Risley**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Mark Eddy**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Anna Dale**, **Carrie High** (Regency Place Nursing Home), **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), **Delpha Allen**, **Paul & Ruth Marks**, **Minnie Scott**, and **Burnell Gulden** (Rosewalk Village)....

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner**, **Loren Sniffen**, and **Brad King**. Serving in South Korea near the DMZ: **Amanda Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's niece).

One Small Step

In 1906, 100 years ago, an unhappy event occurred among God's people. That year a division occurred (or at least was formally recognized) between vocal and instrumental Churches of Christ. Even more sadly, that was not the last division to take place in the 20th century.

This summer our Sunday nights at Elmwood will be an attempt to begin the process of healing—at least in a token way—that division that should never have happened. This summer the preachers for five of the Restoration churches in Lafayette/West Lafayette will be speaking at Elmwood. The dates and the speakers:

May 28, Alan Yeater, Lafayette Church of Christ, Lafayette
June 4, Greg Eberhard, First Christian Church, Lafayette
June 25, John Dittmer, West Lafayette Christian Church, West Lafayette
July 15, Jason Hight, Linwood Church of Christ, Lafayette
July 23, Bill Overby, Brady Lane Church of Christ, Lafayette

These churches do some things differently than we do, though they all respect the Lordship of Jesus, the authority of the word of God, and all practice immersion for baptism and have the Lord's Supper every week. All these men are our brothers in Christ and we welcome them into our fellowship for these Sunday evening worship services.

"I pray . . . that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. . . . May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:20-23).



Our Sympathies

Lester Simmons, father of Nancy Levick, died Tuesday, May 23 in Wellsville, Missouri. The Levicks were in Middletown, Missouri, for the funeral on Saturday.

Cad James, 96, grandfather of Jim Moore, died unexpectedly on Thursday, May 25. Jim and Marsha attended the funeral on Tuesday in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Our deepest sympathies to these two families and their loved ones.

High School Graduate Open House

Mallory Woody will have her graduation open house at Ross Hills Park this **Sunday, June 4, 4:30-8:30 PM.**

Directory Picture Problems?

Problems with recent pictures taken for Elmwood's pictorial directory? If so, call 800-596-3731, extension 3600.

May 28, 2006

Class: 157 Worship: 213

Contribution: \$5,366

Budget: \$8,100

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Seeking the Heart of God

We've all been there: a youth retreat, a revival, or a Sunday night church service. The preacher asks that question, you know it, you've heard it before: "How many of you have read through your whole Bible . . . including Leviticus?" Observing how few hands go up, the preacher usually goes on to say how Leviticus is such a boring book.

Well, I won't claim that I have ever gone through a plan to read through the whole Bible, but I can say that it does confuse me that so many people find Leviticus too boring. Maybe I'm weird, but I find it to be fascinating. Maybe we tend to shy away from Leviticus because it is a book all about rules, and since we are living under the New Covenant we figure rules were just for people like David and Joshua. Or maybe, we just don't care about grain offerings and the reasons that the camel is unclean.

Fair enough, but perhaps before we discard Leviticus, we might want to think about why God created the Law in the first place. I'm pretty sure that God didn't make rules just to foul the Israelites up. For example, I'm pretty sure he didn't find out what all their favorite foods were and then decide that just to make things difficult, he would outlaw those things just to make it difficult to follow him. Rather, he made the laws because they illustrate his very nature. God didn't make lying a sin because he knew that humans had a propensity for lying. Rather, God is truth, so lying is anti-God, and therefore it is sin.

So how does this relate to Leviticus? Among the laws concerning sacrifices for various things, and rules about which animals are clean and which are unclean, God gave the Israelites little nuggets of gold. In Leviticus 19:9-10, for example, God reminds the Israelites that they are not simply to be amassing wealth for themselves, but they are to be taking care of the needy and the stranger. The LORD tells Moses, "Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and the stranger. I am the LORD your God" (NASB). This awakens Israel's social consciousness, and shows us God's heart for community. Later, in 25:1-55, God gives the command for the year of Jubilee. This again confirms God's heart for community, but also illustrates God's graciousness, and shows that everything on this earth is owned by God and we have no claim on it.

Read Leviticus. It is not simply a book of rules; it is an illustration of God and an outline which describes what to do to please him. Are you ready to look to the laws of God for his self-portrait?
Phil Travis

Farewell to the Kings

Herb & Mary Ella King will be leaving Lafayette soon. They have bought a house in Huntsville, Alabama, near their son, Jason. **June 4** will be their last Sunday with us. That evening during our regular **Finger Food Fellowship**, we will honor them for their many years here and their dedicated service to Elmwood.

Also, now is the time to record your "Godspeed" and "Best wishes" to Herb and Mary Ella in a special book from the Elmwood family. Look for Mindy Hart and the book this Sunday morning, June 4, in the Farris foyer.

A Baby Shower!

Becky Pitt (630 Central Avenue, Lafayette) is hosting a baby shower for **Kristie Beeler** and newborn daughter, **Josephine**, on **June 8 from 6:00 until 8:00 PM**. You may give money to Becky or Jenny Sipe if you wish to contribute to a group gift.

Elmwood:

Thank you for the beautiful shower. Also, thank you for the wall mirror and the more than generous contribution! We have enjoyed worshipping with you and we love you all!

-Jared & Mary

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and prayers before, during, and after my recent surgery. I had a two-inch tear in my rotator cuff that is healing nicely. I appreciate all your support.

-Margie Moffitt

Children's Church for grades 1-5 will not meet during the summer months, but will resume the beginning of September. There will be Pre-school worship during the summer.

May 31, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
June 4, AM worship....Andy Baker (WCBC) speaking
June 4, 6 PM....**Greg Eberhard** to speak;
Herb & Mary Ella King farewell with Finger Foods
June 10, 3:30 PM....McClain/Fee wedding
June 13....Let's Start Talking Team leaves for Suva, Fiji

Read:
I Kings 7-20; Psalm 88
Ecclesiastes 1-4

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 24: June 11-17

It is an old refrain. In the 1950s and 1960, the smoky-voiced Peggy Lee sang "Is That All There Is?" Growing up, the speaker in the lyrics was rescued from a fire, went to the circus, and fell in love, but each experience turned out to be disappointing. Her remedy was to "keep dancing . . . break out the booze and have a ball."

Centuries earlier, in the medieval period, a number of poems and songs used the refrain, "Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerent—Where are those who went before us?" The answer is that they and all they had have disappeared into nothing. The speakers are left only with a sense of doom and loss, for they will soon suffer the same lot.

Had they the chance to read Ecclesiastes, these people would have discovered a kindred spirit. "All is vanity and striving after the wind" is the refrain that runs through the book. We are pretentious folk if we think that our house and lands, our position, our accomplishments, or our knowledge have any real significance. The wise and the foolish both come to the same end as do the wicked and the good. We all end up in the grave where "all turn to dust again." Is that all there is?

The speaker in Ecclesiastes shrugs off the question. Certainly, the world looks bleak, he acknowledges, but we have more to look for than doom and loss. We can respect God and enjoy his protection because "I know that it will be well with those who fear God." We can enjoy our work and the fruits of our labor: "There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil." We can experience the reward of relationships: "Enjoy life with the wife (or husband) whom you love."

Is that all there is? Not quite, but Ecclesiastes is a very good start.

Rob Smith



This Week's Highlight: "Body Life"

Each of Elmwood's five deacons leads one ministry area. Over the next few weeks all five areas will be highlighted in the newsletter.

What is the "Body Life" Group About?

David Weckerly, deacon who supports the "Body Life" group, was asked specific questions about his area of ministry.

1. In 20 words or less, would you describe what your ministry is about?

This ministry fosters knowing Christ by structuring opportunities for Christians to support, serve, and encourage one another.

2. Why is this ministry important? Why do you think God wants this ministry to be a part of this church's life?

God wants those who come to Elmwood to be fed, cared for, and have life to the fullest. In return, this ministry provides service opportunities for Christians to serve others by demonstrating Christ's love.

3. What are some of your most immediate objectives for your particular ministry?

The most immediate objective for Body Life is identifying potential ministry leaders and other servants for this ministry through the SHAPE program. Most programs are functioning, but many others need Christians to assume roles of leadership and service to others.

4. What are some of your long-range goals for this ministry?

One long-range goal for Body Life is to have all ministries in place serving the body of Christ at Elmwood. Another goal is to provide opportunities for experiences and encouragement of others for those involved in this ministry. Also, as ministry members leave our community or go to other ministry opportunities, others need to fill in the gaps for continuing service for Elmwood. I foresee Body Life needing two deacons to coordinate the Body Life ministry opportunities.

5. What specifically could the Elmwood members be praying about regarding you and/or your ministry?

Specific prayers for the Body Life ministry include asking God to lead willing and caring servants to this program. I ask that God will bring others to this ministry who want to serve, or those who are in need of services from our church. I ask for prayers for wisdom and encouragement for Body Life servants, including myself, who are, or will be serving in this area.