



A Wake-Up Call

The story was all too familiar. A high profile evangelist, respected by tens of thousands who admired him, falls to the ground in ignominy as his sexual sin is exposed. At first his denials were a little evasive, but within a day or two he admitted it all:

The fact is, I am guilty of sexual immorality, and I take responsibility for the entire problem. I am a deceiver and a liar. There is a part of my life that is so repulsive and dark that I've been warring against it all of my adult life. For extended periods of time I would enjoy victory and rejoice in freedom. Then, from time to time, the dirt that I thought was gone would resurface, and I would find myself thinking thoughts and experiencing desires that were contrary to everything I believe and teach. . . .

Public reaction has been predictable. From "Yeah, yeah, just another Elmer Gantry—they're all alike" to "That was stupid" to "That hit me like a freight train—such a great leader, an inspiring speaker—we weep and we pray for him and his family."

An email posting last week—from a site that ministers to ministers—was to the point:

The fall of our brother Ted is a clarion call for each of us. It is a call to repentance and restoration. It is a call for accountability and authenticity. It is a call to you and to me. Why? Because we, like Ted, are not above falling into sexual sin. Maybe our category of sexual temptation is not homosexuality. Perhaps our nemesis is internet pornography, lustful thoughts toward a co-worker or congregant or a relationship with a member of the opposite or same sex that has crossed that invisible line of appropriateness into the realm of a downward slide into irreparable compromise.

A wake-up call to ministers? A reminder that we are not above sin? Good. Needful. And also, a wake-up call to any Christian who struggles with any sin....which would include, come to think of it....just about all of us.

G. Crowe

Thankful!

I was walking through the hospital lobby to visit my grandmother when I saw an elderly woman looking very suspiciously at me. So I greeted her and asked her how she was doing. Even more suspiciously she returned my greeting. Soon I discerned that she was not actually trying to be suspicious or mean, but was, instead, suffering from something that affected her mentally as well as physically. She looked alone and scared. I want to finish my thought about this woman in a minute.....

I woke up this morning with a persistent cough, but I could breathe without a ventilator. I am thankful. I was able to walk to my car, drive (although some might contest that I can actually drive). I am able to type and talk, to think freely, to choose what I want for lunch instead of taking what the homeless shelter is serving, and I have a church family.

Some, however, cannot be thankful for all of these things. This brings me back to the woman I met this weekend. When I met her, it reminded me that there are some in our community (both the Elmwood community and the Lafayette community) much sicker than I am. There are some who cannot walk without help. There are those who cannot drive, cannot talk, and have no family. There are those trapped in the prison of their minds. And it is at this point that I become so very thankful . . . so very, very thankful that our God has given us, his church, the privilege and responsibility to be his ministers to those mentioned above. I am *most* thankful that we are God's arm in the world, that we can be family to those who have none; that we can drive those who can't; that we can feed those who have no food; and that God allows us, *his church*, to represent Him on earth. Praise Him for that chance! ~Dan

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 21



Elmwood's annual **Thanksgiving Dinner and devotional** will be **Tuesday, November 21, at 6:00 PM.** If you intend to come to the dinner, please indicate on your yellow attendance card this Sunday how many from your family will be attending. Don Vice still needs some volunteers to help. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Farris foyer.



Don Burrell, 68, longtime Elmwood member, died Thursday at Home Hospital. Diagnosed with brain cancer on September 29, he had developed pneumonia less than a week before he died. Our sincere sympathies to Carolyn and her children, Jim, of Chalmers, and Donna and her husband, Dave, who live at 5659 Golden Crest, Stevensville, MI 49127.

Woman to Woman Ministry Team

The Elmwood women's ministry is developing a Woman-To-Woman Team to walk beside women during those times when they may feel spiritually or emotionally alone. Team members will support women first and foremost with prayer, and then offer emotional support and friendship. Sometimes encouragement comes by simply spending time with another person and in other instances it helps to talk to someone who has been through a similar experience.

There will be more announcements about the WTW Team throughout the spring months as team members begin to explore ways that women can support each other in our Christian walk. If you have ideas about how support can be offered to the Elmwood family or would like to be a member of the team, contact one of the women listed below. These women are also available if you, or someone you know, is feeling alone.

WTW team members: Scheryl Gaylor, Ann Vaught, Jean Dilling, Terri Miller, and Lisa Crowe.



"A King Is Coming to Town" 2006 Children's Christmas Musical

The 1st through 8th grade will practice **this Wednesday, November 15 from 6:30 until 8:00 PM.** The 4-year-olds through kindergarten will practice singing Christmas carols Wednesday from 7:00 until 7:15. Practice this **Sunday, November 19, will be 12:30 until 3:00 PM.**

Happy 50th!



Joe & Sandy Seele will celebrate 50 years of marriage on **November 19.** Our hearty congratulations on such a wonderful event!

Thank You!

Dear Elmwood brothers & sisters, Thank you for your prayers, visits, calls, and cards while I was in the hospital, and for the food you brought me after my return home. It was appreciated. You are good people. -Valley Stockton

Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. -the family of Donald Leer

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent to my Dad's celebration of life. They were such a welcome surprise. It's nice to know I was remembered by my church family even though far away. I also thank you for the many cards and hugs I have received.

If you didn't know my Dad, I'm sure you'll enjoy meeting him in heaven some day. God bless you for your kindness to me and my family. -Susan Pryor Hodges

November 12, 2006

Class: 210 Worship: 326

Contribution: \$8,160

Budget: \$8,550

**Shults-Lewis
Milk Money**



*Contribution to date: \$8,915.17
of which \$25.95 came from those in
Children's Church, and \$3.37 from
Preschool Worship*



Youth Administration Committee

We have been without a youth committee for some time now. Under the restructuring of our ministries, Youth Ministry is under the Education Ministry (Joe Ruhl). Our new committee has been selected. Members are Michael Nicodemus, Lee Porter, Joe Ruhl, Phyllis Simmerman, Cody Sipe, and Barb Tilley.

The role of this group will be to establish the direction for the programming that will occur in this ministry based on goals provided by the Elders. The Youth Minister will be an ex-officio member of this group. Group Responsibilities/Duties:

- Pray for God's guidance in this area of His ministry.
- Develop, with the Elders, on a yearly basis, the goals of the ministry.
- Develop programming with respect to these goals. This includes which retreats and camps to attend, what topics to be covered in Bible class, how the group will be divided with respect to age, and what guest speakers may be invited.
- Monitor the progress and execution of the program.
- Develop a yearly budget and give it to the treasurer at the appointed time.
- Create and maintain a calendar of events and action prompts. The calendar should span one year; 18 months is preferred.
- Submit quarterly ministry updates to the Education Deacon. These are meant to be short half-page highlights. It would be generally expected that the Youth Minister do this, but the group could decide to delegate it from time to time.
- Prepare yearly report to be prepared and presented by the entire group. This could be done in connection with the budget preparation.
- Be the first point-of-contact for anyone with questions, concerns, or comments.
- Prepare an assessment of the ministry with respect to goals. This assessment will be used by the Elders during the Youth Minister's annual review. It is generally expected that this assessment will have been shared with the youth minister before the review.

Please keep this group in your prayers as we continue to seek to serve the teens and families of teens at Elmwood. Also let the committee members know you appreciate their service.

Teachers Needed

The winter quarter begins December 3. We need teachers for Kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade. Let me know if you are willing and able.

-Lee



Pray that the body of Christ would soon reflect the ethnic diversity described in the New Testament where "there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11).

Minnie Scott is in Home Hospital, room 2339....

Jim Willison is at home recuperating from ankle surgery last week....**Willard Farmer** has begun chemo treatments. Radiation will follow soon....Dan Cooke's grandmother, **Sue Durham**, is in serious condition in a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee....**Joyce Driver**, Margie Moffitt's daughter, is recuperating at home after surgery last week....Continue praying for **Paul Verett**, **Ginger Spenard**, **Valley Stockton**, **Annie Crowder**, **Ella McBride**, **Linda Smith**, **Pat Turner**, **Pat Dwyer**, **Steven Rutledge**, **Marcia Swails**, **Gail Monnet**, **Mark Eddy**, **Amy Weismiller**, **Lynn Robinson**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Carrie High** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Hattie Coffel**, **Ruth Marks**, & **Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner** and **Loren Sniffen**.
Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**. **Jeremy Crable** will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.

A Place at your Table?

There may be an opportunity to help out some of the Navy and Air Force ROTC cadets this Thanksgiving. Some of them may not be able to go home for the break, so if your family would be willing to host a cadet for Thanksgiving dinner, please contact Kenny Palmer at rkpalmer2006@yahoo.com or at 404-5952. This would be a great opportunity for the veterans in the congregation to share their wisdom and experiences with some of our future military leaders. Thank you.



Nov. 15, 7 PM....Good Sense budget class, taught by Janet Boston, runs for 7 weeks. Class is limited to 24 people and will meet in the conference room. Direct all questions to Janet at 477-7668.

Nov. 15, 7 PM....Children's Christmas Musical practice and Bible classes for all

Nov. 21, 6 PM....Thanksgiving meal & devotional
NO WEDNESDAY CLASSES ON NOV. 22



Read:

Nahum 1-3; Habakkuk 1-3;
Zephaniah 1-3; Isaiah 57-64;
2 Thessalonians 1-3

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 48: November 26-December 2

The world is indeed an evil place. Everyday we hear of another attack in Iraq, a terrorist plot to kill thousands, a school shooting, and the list goes on. There are many who hate our way of life, our values, and our faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

This state of events, unfortunately, is nothing new. God's people have struggled with evil and those who perpetrate it for thousands of years. Due to our tendency to think in the near term, it may appear to us that the wicked always prosper and that God is turning a blind eye towards them. We may feel like Habakkuk when he cried, "Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds" (Habakkuk 1:4, NKJV). God, however, does not forget those who call on His name. He will avenge evildoers and uplift those who call on Him. Nahum proclaimed "The Lord will take vengeance on His enemies" (Nahum 1:2, NKJV) and Peter explained that "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment..." (2 Peter 2:9, NKJV).

In 2 Peter 3, Peter offered further assurance to Christians in vs. 13 when he wrote, "we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness" (NIV). In the end, God is in control. He is in complete control over the course of history and will accomplish His purposes in His time (2 Peter 3:8, 9). We must put our faith in His timetable, even when it is not what we think it should be.

"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him" (Habakkuk 2:20, NKJV). *–Mark Wilkins*