



Something That Will Outlive Us

Some people collect stamps. Others collect dolls. Some collect coins. I had a friend who collected gold coins—and he died a rich man. Doris collected thimbles. In her collection were all kinds, all shapes, all colors, all sizes. Thimbles come in plastic, wood, silver, leather, brass, gold, pewter, china, glass. They may have hand-painted pictures or inlaid stones or geometric designs. Some cost a dime, some of Doris's cost \$50 or more. Doris loved to collect thimbles, and she became known far and wide for her collection.

But then something unexpected happened: Doris died. Within hours of her death, the relatives were all abuzz: what will happen to the thimbles? After the funeral, women were over the thimbles like flies over a pie on a hot summer day. There was some grabbing and some hurt feelings before the rightful heir finally walked away with her inheritance.

When some people die they're remembered for their accomplishments. Others for their discoveries, their talents, or their virtues. I would like to tell you that people remember Doris for the way she used her thimbles to sew for her family; I would like to tell you that she gave away \$100 to charity for every \$100 she spent on thimbles. But I can't honestly say those things. The fact is, Doris is remembered for one thing: her thimble collection.

Nothing wrong with thimbles. They're useful objects I'm told, though I wouldn't know how to use one. But I wonder: when someone dies and the primary fact people remember is thimbles, isn't something a little askew?

I like William James' challenging statement: "The purpose of life," he wrote, "is to spend it for something that will outlive you." That speaks powerfully. For my life to have a purpose, a meaning, it must be spent in pursuit of something greater than me and my interests. One day I will not be here anymore. A few months, a few years after they shovel dirt on my coffin, people will look at my picture and ask, "Who?" If I have devoted my life only to me and to my interests, people can legitimately look my direction and ask, "Why?" I don't want that to happen.

G. Crowe

Fall Retreat!

This weekend we will be going to the FFA Retreat Center for our fall retreat. We have currently just over 30 students going and we will be gone until Sunday around lunch. We really need your support this year by praying for us while we are gone!

Yes, of course, you can pray for our safety but there are also many more things you can pray about for us! Here are some things that you can pray about while we are gone: 1) Our hearts would be drawn closer to Christ while we are away 2) Newer people would be able to establish and develop relationships crucial to their faith 3) We would come back more unified and stronger in purpose 4) We would have a stronger sense of mission.

Please take one of those four things and pray for us this week! That helps us so much as we spend a few days really focusing on Christ and how to be more like Him. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry. We won't see you Sunday, but you will be in our hearts and prayers ...and I hope we will be in yours!

~Dan



New Directories!

If your household (one for each family) has not received a copy of the new picture directory, see Bill Hodges on Sunday.

Women's Fellowship Carry-in

Mark your calendars for the **Women's Fellowship Carry-in dinner** planned for **Saturday, October 21, at 5:30 PM, in A-2.** Come enjoy the food and fellowship and a "surprise" program. Questions? See Barb Tilley, Betty Brown, Susan Swensen, or Doris Swensen.

Thank You!

Thank you all so much for the hospitality that you showed me this summer. I hope that I was half the blessing to you that you all were to me. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and your lives this summer. God bless. -Phil Travis

Dear Elmwood church,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful dish garden to bless us as we said a final good-bye to our wonderful Christian mother and grandmother. She gave so much to so many, especially after we left home. She has graduated to glory. We miss her so much.

*Blessings to you, the family of Jewell Bandy
(Ann Smithson)*

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming **Focus on the Family** programs are hard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **2:00 PM Monday-Friday.** (*Note time change for this program.*)

- Sept. 29* **The Best Career for You**—Larry Burkett offers wisdom on making good career choices, avoiding bad ones and setting goals.
- Oct. 2 & 3* **Marriage Survival Skills 101**—Gary Smalley and Scott Stanley discuss basic marriage skills, focusing on the right and wrong ways of handling conflict. (Parts 1 & 2)
- Oct. 4* **Raising Boys: Kids & Bullying**—Dr. Dobson discusses the problem of bullying on school campuses and how it can have a long-term, negative impact on kids.
- Oct. 5-6* **Raising Boys: Wounded Spirits**—Dr. Dobson discusses how boys are emotionally wounded by the breakdown of the family and various cultural factors. (Parts 1 & 2)



New Address for the Swanks

Pete & Vernell Swank
3219 Thomas Drive
Lafayette 47909
Ph: 477-2266

Volunteer Orientation Sessions Offered

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center will hold two Fall Volunteer Orientation sessions to introduce prospective volunteers to the mission, history, services and volunteer opportunities of this life-affirming ministry. Those interested can attend Wednesday, October 4, from 9:30-11:00 AM or Thursday, October 5, 7-8:30 PM. All who have a desire to offer alternatives to abortion, as well as support and education to young parents are welcome. Please call 742-1533 or email katiematrix@insightbb.com to RSVP for the session of your choice by Tuesday, October 3. The Matrix office is located at 1824 Maple Street in Lafayette.

September 24, 2006
Class: 221 Worship: 312
Contribution: \$6,144
Budget: \$8,550

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Fallfest

This weekend, a small group of us will be visiting Fallfest in Cincinnati. Actually, everyone there will be at Fallfest in Cincinnati for the first time because up till this year it has been in Chicago. Fallfest is a youth rally much like Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN (and Arlington, TX) but it takes place in the fall. Over the years, our group has really enjoyed the teaching, fun and fellowship of Winterfest, so we are looking forward to this experience as well. One group we are really looking forward to being with is the Withamsville youth group. We do Camp CUMO with them and our two groups really enjoy being together. Speaking of Camp CUMO, our group will be making a presentation of this year's camp/mission trip to the church on Sunday night October 8 - mark your calendars, now. Please keep our Fallfest group in your prayers. We will leave this Friday night and return on Sunday afternoon.

LIFE Group at the CSC

This Sunday night the Teen LIFE Group will take its turn hosting the college group at the Christian Student Center. Lynae Stafford has agreed to coordinate the food (Straw Hat/Mexican Build Up/Taco Salad...) and will be contacting some of you to help with the meal. It would be very nice if you beat her to the call and volunteered to bring something before she asks. I hope everyone plans to be there for the meeting as it will be a great time to meet the new students and to reconnect with old friends in the college group as well.

Fall Retreat at Spring Mill Bible Camp

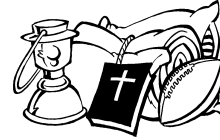
The Fall Retreat at SMBC, "Be Still & Know" is October 6-8. Once again, because this is a very busy time of year for our students, only a small group is planning to attend. The cost of the retreat is \$30. This is a very special time as it serves not only as a time of refreshment for the soul; it is also like a camp reunion. Many of the participants are from the Sr. and Intermediate Week sessions of camp we attend. If you have not signed up, it would be a good idea to call the Central Church of Christ in Bedford (hosting congregation) 812-275-7880 to be sure there is still room. The retreat is limited to the first 120 students.

"Haven't You Heard? There's A War Going On!"

The Men's Retreat is October 13-15 and Patrick Mead is our guest speaker. The focus of the retreat is Spiritual Warfare and that is a topic that hits guys of all ages. The retreat committee has worked really hard to make the weekend appealing to all ages (Jesse Jones is on the committee) so please make plans to attend. Cost for teens and college students is just \$25!!!

- Lee

Men's Retreat 2006



This year's Men's Retreat is **October 13-15 (Friday night through Sunday morning)** at the beautiful Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center. Our speaker this year is **Patrick Mead** from Rochester, Michigan. The theme of this year's retreat is **"Spiritual Warfare."** Haven't you heard there's a war going on? *"Our struggle is against the rulers, against the powers, against the spiritual forces of wickedness..."* It's a battle for a man's heart and soul. The schedule includes time for hiking, archery, fishing, rock climbing, and playing sports or just enjoying nature. Since we need to make final plans and commitments far in advance, we need to know if you will be able to join us. In this regard, please add your name to the list located in the Farris Foyer by October 1.

Prayer Concerns...

Pray that God would show each of us open doors to communicate our faith.

Henrietta Frampton is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 4344 with a sciatic nerve problem...**Jim Willison's** surgery to repair his broken kneecap on Tuesday went well. He is at home recuperating...Continue praying for **Jesus**, Evan O'Donnell's kindergartner friend, who was in a mowing accident, **Marcia Swails**, **Don Cadwallader**, **Deidra Strickler**, **Steven Rutledge**, **Mark Eddy**, **Amy Weismiller**, **Lynn Robinson**, **Linda Smith**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Carrie High (Regency Place)**, **Irene Fox (George Davis Manor Nursing Home)**, and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Ruth Marks**, **Minnie Scott**, & **Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner** and **Loren Sniffen**. **Brad King** is back home! Praise the Lord. Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**. **Jeremy Crable** is at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, until he is deployed to Afghanistan.



Sept. 27, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
October 13-15...Men's retreat, YMCA, Brookston
October 15...**Patrick Mead** preaches at Elmwood
October 21, 5:30 PM...Women's Fellowship Carry-in
Dinner in A-2

Read:
Jeremiah 47-52; Isaiah 8-14;
Lamentations 1-5; 1, 2, 3 John

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 41: October 8-14

Obedience to God's word = God's love perfected in us (1 John 2:5). I really like these simple algebraic-like formulas – they really let you know where you are with God. But this one I'm not so sure of – kinda makes love seem a little superficial, doesn't it? Something as deep as God's love demoted to the do's and don'ts of the Bible. All we've got to do is obey the 10 Commandments and God's love is perfected in us?

In our time the "obedience" factor has kind of degenerated to optional behavior for those on their way to heaven. Surely we don't worship a God who sets high expectations in obedience for those of us who call Him our heavenly Father in one breath, and flippantly use His or His Son's name when we stub our toe? Surely we serve a more sophisticated God than that of our forefathers and the sweaty week-long summer revivals that made you walk away wondering how anyone would ever get to heaven. I would cool myself with those hand fans with funeral home advertisements on them wondering if I might sneak one of these with me to where I would surely end up.

Well, we've had at least one thing right recently: we can't be good enough to get to heaven on our own. But if we make Jesus our Lord and Savior we should be becoming different people behavior-wise. We have to become disciples of Jesus. We have to emulate the way Jesus lived and allow His teachings to sink deep into our minds so that our behavior changes. Cody Sipe gave a terrific sermon in August from Romans 12:1 & 2 explaining the impact of doing this in our lives.

God made us to live like Jesus did on this earth. Only when we do will we experience the peace He has promised. "There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil.....but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good" (Romans 2:9,10). God's great plans for us don't start when we get to heaven; they've already begun and we should be living like it!

-Carol Koons

This Week's Highlight: "Worship"

Each of Elmwood's five deacons leads one ministry area. This is the fifth ministry area to be highlighted in the newsletter.

What is the "Worship" Group About?

Jim Moore, deacon who supports the "Worship" group, was asked specific questions about his area of ministry.

1. How would you describe what your ministry is about?

It is about offering God-honoring worship that is Biblically faithful and uplifting to his church, worship that honors and glorifies his wondrous love for all mankind.

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

In worship we draw closer in our relationship with God and in our fellowship with the believers. It is a time in which we open our hearts so that God's Spirit works through us and guides us daily to evangelize and minister to the needs of the world.

3. What in your background has led you to be prepared to lead this ministry?

While in college I remember a comment by an elderly brother being honored for nearly 70-80 years of faithful attendance. He said, "I made it my first priority to never miss an opportunity to worship God. So nothing ever got in my way." I have tried to make that my priority as well. I have struggled many times but worshiping God has always brought me back to peace with God and within myself. Growing up in the church, worshiping God has been such a part of my life that I find it hard to imagine what it would be like without it. From my time growing up in the mission fields in Italy, gathering for worship with the body of Christ always played an important role in my life. In my early college years it helped keep me close to God. After I married, missing the midweek Bible study for a period of time because of my job made me even more determined not to miss gathering to worship and praise God at every opportunity.

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

My goal for the Worship Ministry is to develop this ministry so that our worship carries on beyond the times we gather together. Worshiping is not what we do as much as a statement of who controls our life. To sing songs of praise to God, to read and hear his words, to fellowship, to partake of the Lord's Supper and talk to our Lord and Father in prayer are all parts that we can do individually or communally. Individually our worship to God draws us to him. Communally our worship brings us closer as brothers and sisters. Worshiping God in both ways is necessary for every believer.

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

I hope and pray that the Worship Ministry can be the tool that draws us closer to the heart of God every day of our lives. I pray that it brings us closer as a family where we can't wait for the next opportunity to be together. In this way our local body will continue to grow and flourish. I pray that if for some reason we do go separate ways the Worship Ministry gives us the tools that will support our love for God and his Church and that we will share it with others. In this way the Church as a whole will grow.

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

To ensure the growth and stability of the body here at Elmwood, pray that our worship to God will be alive every day. Please pray as we look for ways to help our daily worship as well as our time we gather to worship. Pray that we never reach the point in Isaiah 29:13 where our worship is unacceptable to God because it does not come from our heart.