



## God Is Very Important?

A study was recently done at the Barna Research group where teenagers were asked how important God was to them. They were given the following choices: not important, somewhat important, and very important. The survey showed, much to the joy of those giving it, that an incredibly high percentage of the teenagers surveyed said that God was very important to them. That's good news! So, the researchers decided to flip the question on its head and ask the same students previously surveyed the following question: "What is most important to you?" The results showed that an overwhelming percentage of the same students claimed that family and friends were most important to them. God was not mentioned by any of those answering.

The study clarified for researchers how teenagers thought about God. When asked how important God was, most said /very/. When asked what was important, none listed God. There is a disconnect here. It showed that the teenagers studied were sincere about their affection for God, but when simply asked about priorities they were unable to process in a way that included God.

This does not seem to be a problem that is confined to the teenagers that were surveyed. I have met several people that respond in similar ways. People do not really know how to process life through theological lenses, to process life by asking kingdom-oriented questions. This is what some call /theological reflection/.

Theological reflection is absolutely necessary if we are going to change the outcome of the survey mentioned above. Here are a few things that might help as you guide your family in the process of theological reflection: 1) When your children have a big decision regarding involvement in sports ask them if making that decision will help them grow closer to God (e.g. will another extra-curricular activity bring you closer to God or will it keep you too busy to be part of the church family?). 2) When choosing a college ask them if it is an environment that will help their faith grow. 3) When deciding which career ask your children which career will best give them the opportunity to use their spiritual gifts or give them the opportunity to spread the gospel to others.

These questions, and others like them, will help our families to do theological reflection so that no matter how the question is worded, God will always be claimed as the top priority of our lives. -Dan

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

## SHAPE, April 2007

**W**e have written about the church being like a body, with different parts serving different functions.

The purpose of SHAPE is to figure out what kind of body part each member of the church is. If each of us is in the place our spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, personality and experiences fit us, then the church will be maximally effective. Of course, from the point of view of the work of the church, we have a variety of ministries that need to be performed if the church is to fulfill its full mission. In the recent past, or at the moment, for example, we need or have needed people to fill the following ministries: (1) coordinator for Senior Servants; (2) recruiter for body life ministries; (3) coordinator of offsite ministries, such as snow servants, shut-in stewards, hospital stewards, serving offsite communion; (4) primary age Sunday School coordinator; (5) a person to provide backup support for Sherry Marks in the office; (6) an additional person to help John Stafford in the food pantry; (7) people to help with Vacation Bible School, Noah's Ark Night, and the Christmas Program. These are just some of the jobs that need to be filled. Further, we need to think about adding additional elders, and there is always a need for additional Bible School teachers, particularly with the children. At the end of March we had completed 93 SHAPE interviews, 57 interviews were in process, and 121 persons remained to be interviewed. We are completing 4-5 interviews each week.

-Rick Swensen

# "What Every Woman Should Know About Finances" Seminar

The Women's Ministry is hosting an educational evening on financial topics for women **this Saturday, April 14, from 7-9 PM** at the Elmwood building. God calls us to be good stewards of the resources He has given us. Come with your questions and we will all learn together. The program is free but **pre-registration is necessary**. Please contact Terri Miller or Betty Brown if you plan to attend.

*Thank You!*

Dear Elmwood members:

Thank you for your kind words and prayers. Thank you to those who provided the delicious food to eat.

Sincerely, April & Joe Tidrick

Elmwood Congregation:

Thank you everyone for your support and prayers as I begin my new life with Jesus Christ.

Always in Christ, Steve Curwick

## Food Pantry Volunteers Needed!

The Elmwood food pantry is open from 1:00 to 3:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week and serves more than 250 needy families a month. Elmwood members greet those who come and help them fill a grocery bag with the items they select. If you would be interested in helping 1 or 2 times a month, please contact John Stafford at 474-8478.

## 60th Wedding Anniversary!

*The children of Charles & Esther Floyd  
invite you to join them in  
celebrating their parents'  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
at a reception on*

*Saturday, April 14, 2007, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
at the home of Leland & Diana Floyd  
7755 Harrison Road, Battle Ground, Indiana*

*Cards are welcomed, but no gifts please.*



## A Baby Girl!



Proud parents, Becky & Chad Pitt, welcomed the newest member of their family, **Evelynn Mae**, on Sunday, **April 8**, weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces, and measuring 19.5 inches. Big sister, Annabelle, and big brother, Spencer, eagerly await her arrival home. Congratulations, Becky and Chad!

## Happy Anniversary!



**Gene & Nancy High** celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on Tuesday, April 17. Congratulations!

## Good \$ense Class

The "Good \$ense" budgeting course—a series of 6 one-hour sessions—begins **this Wednesday, April 11, at 6:00 PM**, and each week thereafter on **April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9 and May 16**. —Janet Boston

**April 8, 2007**  
Class: 191 Worship: 337  
Contribution: \$9,095  
Budget: \$8,550



### MWLTC Awards 2007

**BURKS, PHILLIP:** Christian Art **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **SILVER**; **BURKS, RACHEL:** Christian Art **SILVER**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Radio Minute Message **GOLD** Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **BRONZE**, Video Bible Drama **BRONZE**; **GAMBLE, TAYLOR:** Puppets **GOLD**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **JONES, JESSE:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **PARTICIPANT**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **LEE, TYLER:** Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Live Modern Christian Drama **SILVER**, Puppets **SILVER**; **LEVICK, ANGELA:** Group Singing Large **GOLD**; **MERRIMAN, MICHAEL:** Puppets **SILVER**, Scrap Books **SILVER**; **MERRIMAN, NOAH:** Live Modern Christian Drama **SILVER**, Puppets **SILVER**, Scrap Books **SILVER**; **MOORE, MARK:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **BRONZE**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **O'DONNELL, CAROLINE:** Bulletin Boards **GOLD**, Christian Art **SILVER**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Radio Minute Message **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**, Video Bible Drama **BRONZE**; **O'DONNELL, KAITLYN:** Bulletin Boards **GOLD**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Radio Minute Message **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**, Video Bible Drama **BRONZE**; **RISLEY, NATASHA:** Bulletin Boards **SILVER**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **RUHL, PATRICK:** Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Leadership Challenge **AWARD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **SHIELDS, DYLAN:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **PARTICIPANT**; **SIMMERMAN, ANDREW:** Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **STAFFORD, BENJAMIN:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **BRONZE**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Leadership Challenge **AWARD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **STAFFORD, JOSHUA:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **SILVER**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Live Modern Christian Drama **SILVER**, Leadership Challenge **AWARD**, Puppets **SILVER**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **STAFFORD, RACHEL:** Bible Bowl **PARTICIPANT**, Bible Bowl-Indiv. **PARTICIPANT**; Bulletin Boards **GOLD**, Christian Art **GOLD**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Radio Minute Message **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**, Video Bible Drama **BRONZE**; **TILLEY, MADISON:** Bulletin Boards **GOLD**, Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Group Singing Small **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**, Alternative Art - Indiv. **GOLD**; **TILLEY, NELSON:** Group Singing Large **GOLD**, Puppets **GOLD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**; **WILLISON, MELISSA:** Bulletin Boards **SILVER**, Leadership Challenge **AWARD**, Scrap Books **SILVER**, Service Challenge **GOLD**. Great job everyone.

- Lee



**Nancy High** has back surgery this Wednesday, April 11 at St. Elizabeth Hospital....**Bill Adams** has been undergoing tests for recent health problems....**Sherry Risley** had surgery on Friday....**Guyula Robinson**, Margie Moffitt's sister in Cleveland, Ohio, has lung cancer....**Charles Moore**, Jim's father, is in the hospital in Texas. He has congestive heart failure and other problems associated with diabetes.... **Oscar Miller** will have knee surgery (6th time) soon....Continue praying for **Bob Stafford, Charles Carter, Connie Nicholson, Carolyn Riddle, Sean High, Mary Tavana, Sarah Watts, Seth Mullen, Beth Holt (bursitis in hip), Willard Farmer, Annie Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Kaden Koebecke, Lynn Robinson, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Brian Guthrie** in Qatar, Persian Gulf; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson (grandson of Mary Lou Baugh), and Jon Kiefner (Amanda Guthrie's brother)** in Iraq; Phyllis Simmerman's nephew, **Chris Martin**, is in South Korea.

## CSC Root Beer Kegger Friday, April 20

Once again the CSC will host their annual **Root Beer Kegger on Friday, April 20**. As always, any snacks that the Elmwood family could provide in the form of cookies, desserts, chips, finger foods, etc., would be MUCH APPRECIATED! They can be brought to the church building for pick up by Friday at noon.



**April 11, 7 PM**....Bible Classes for all  
**April 14, 7-9 PM**.... "What Every Woman Should Know About Finances" seminar at church building  
**April 15, 6 PM**....LTC Showcase; finger foods to follow

Read:  
*Joshua 19-Judges 9;*  
*Mark 5-8*

# 2007 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 17: April 23-29

One of the great things about my job is that I get the opportunity to travel all throughout the state and experience Indiana in it's fullest. These trips often give me the time for reflection as I take in the countryside. On a recent trip, I saw a sight that caught my attention. While it was not particularly different than things I had seen on many of my other trips, this one got me thinking. You have most likely seen it too. There were a series of signs posted to the telephone poles, undoubtedly posted by cheerleaders or a pep club in support of the local high school sports team. They were decorated with metallic blue streamers that caught the sun just right that day and drew my attention to each sign in succession. The first one had a simple message- GO! The next- FIGHT! The third one- WIN! Not so uncommon I suppose. But it was the next two that grabbed me- BELIEVE! , the next one said. And the final one said- WE LOVE YOU! And I thought to myself, "here's a team that not only needs to know they have support during their battle, but also needed someone telling them they can do it and even if they don't come out on top, they are still admirable." How true this same theory rings in the reading this week. I think especially of Gideon and the story of the fleece--and as you read you can almost hear the cry of God in the background saying GO! FIGHT! WIN! BELIEVE!

As I continued on my drive that day, I thought about what it would be like if God posted signs like that for us as the president of our pep club. I challenge you to see these signs as a way to remember that God is always there to cheer us on, urge us to fight, hold to our beliefs, but most of all to present that final sign that says I LOVE YOU no matter what battle he is sending you in to fight.

*-Mindy Hart*