



Direction

I am drawn to gadgets, especially talking ones. For example, I think I am in love with GPS. It is 3D, color, a great gizmo, and is profoundly helpful to those of us who won't stop and ask for directions. Now we can maintain our pride and never even get out of the car! GPS, of course, stands for "Global Positioning System" and is designed to guide you through every step of your journey.

Sometimes I, like many others, desire a GPS for life. Wouldn't that be nice?! Think about it. How great it would be to know where you were going in life, to understand your direction. When it is phrased like that, who in their right mind wouldn't want a LIFE GPS?! No more guessing games; no more worrying; no more confusion.

The truth is that in Christ we know our destination, we have our purpose laid out before us, and we are certain about our direction. God allows us, however, the freedom to turn right or left or to take any one of numerous roads that would lead us to the same spot. He loves us enough to give us that freedom of choice.

This is my final column at Elmwood.

It seems ironic that I chose direction to discuss since it is here that our paths part. But we are headed to the same place. We have the same path laid out before us. I want to encourage you to follow that path, to make choices and be responsible for them, and to feel the comfort of God's direction mixed with gratitude for His gift of free will. Who knows? Perhaps we will both make choices in the future that will allow us to spend more time on the road together. Whatever the case, it does my heart good to know that we are in the same caravan and headed to the same place. May God bless you as you continue to know Christ and to make Him known along this road we travel together.

Grace and Peace,

–Dan

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

Elmwood Budget 2007-08

With input from the various ministry leaders of the congregation, the elders have approved an operating budget of \$548,370 for the fiscal year July 2007 through June 2008. This represents a 10% increase over the budget for 2006-07.

A few of the items included in this budget are funds for rehabilitation of the youth house (\$21,000); maintenance of the main facility – classroom carpet, new front sign, painting (\$35,800); Staff Compensation (\$240,000), Body life Ministry (\$14,000); Outreach/Missions (\$21,400); Education (\$12,000); Campus Ministry (\$32,000); Youth ministry (\$16,000).

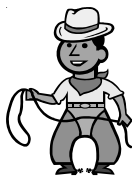
The elders wish to thank everyone that provided input for this budget. A special thanks to Bill Hodges who gathered all the information into a presentable form.

Copies of the new budget will be made available, along with a report on the actual expenses for the past year, in the near future.

This budget provides a considerable challenge to Elmwood. With God's help and with prayerful consideration by each member it will be achieved.

If you have any questions please see the elders or Bill Hodges.

Vacation Bible School August 8-12



Let's corral 80 kids at Avalanche Ranch.
August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM
August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM
August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM
YOU can help make it happen.

Parents may now register their children online at the Elmwood Church of Christ website: elmwood-church.org, obtain a form at the church, or call the church and give us your information.

Prayer concerns....

Elizabeth Tinkle is in room 4340 at St. Elizabeth Hospital...**Carolyn Burrell's** sister-in-law, **Lorena Poindexter**, will have a 6-hour surgery on July 5, at IU North ...**Delores Nolan** is slowly healing. She will still have to wait 2-3 months for surgery on her nose...**Delores Hill** is recovering from reconstructive surgery on her wrist...**Margie Moffitt** Monday...**Henry Hunt**, knee replacement surgery treated for a recurrence of **Eby**, granddaughter of daughter of Tara, will be her diabetes in the Do-29....Continue praying for **Oka LeMaster**, **Joe Roberts**, **Oscar Miller**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Jeanette Tidrick**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Kathy Ciota**, **Charles Carter**, **Charles Moore**, **Jo Gelfand**, **Willie Batts**, **Irene Sims**, **Mary Tavana**, **Willard Farmer**, **Valley Stockton**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Ruth Marks**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Minnie Scott**, **Carrie High**, **Irene Fox**, & **Burnell Gulden**.



had surgery on her eye **David's father**, will have July 9. He is also being prostate cancer...**Rachel Andrea Browell**, and having stem cell therapy for minican Republic on June **Bill Adams**, **Peter Bell**, **Bailey**, **Sue Sill**, **Dottie**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine**, **Joshua Thompson** (grandson of *Mary Lou Baugh*), in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night, June 25, were **Ronda Tidrick**, **Christi Branstetter**, **Shirley Farmer**, and **Marilyn Walters**. Many thanks to those at Elmwood who participate in this ministry to provide food for Lafayette's homeless. If you haven't participated before and would like to, see **Mandy Anderson**.



A Fond Farewell

It's with regret and sadness that we say goodbye to **Bud & Mary Darby** this week. They raised their family here and have been a part of this church for many years. Always generous, Bud served the Lord and this church with his talent for giving. In recent years Mary's health has been declining, and now Bud has had some health problems and needs help with her care. They are moving to Montgomery, Alabama, to be near their daughter, Linda. Their new address will be **Apt. C 204, 4000 Fieldcrest Dr., Montgomery, AL 36111. Phone: 334-284-0028.** They will be sorely missed by all. God's richest blessings to you, Bud and Mary.

Check out this website...

Memories of our loved ones are very important to us. **Cindy Snapp** has developed a website for her son, **Jason**, who died in October, 2003. You may visit it at <http://jason-trent-memory-of.com>

Congratulations!

Al Dale was recently awarded the **Distinguished Citizen Award** by Mayor Tony Roswarski. He was recognized for contributions to the quality of community life in Lafayette. Congratulations, Al!

June 24, 2007
Class: 177 Worship: 244
Contribution: \$6,701
Budget: \$8,550



Independence Day

Patriotic holidays are always difficult for me. It is in these times, perhaps more than any that I feel estranged the most from America at large. In my family, these holidays were times for all my aunts, uncles, and cousins to get together at my grandparent's farm for a cookout, some football, softball, and volleyball and to just spend time together. For my family, nationalistic pride was not on the menu for Independence Day, or Memorial Day, but instead, they functioned more as a sort of Thanksgiving. That's not the only reason I feel disunity with most of America, though I'm sure the way I was raised does factor into the equation.

The way in which I understand Christianity, there is not much room for rampant patriotism or nationalism. I'm not saying that one cannot be happy, thankful, and proud of where they come from (though pride is perhaps difficult when one generally has very little choice over their citizenship), but I think it is difficult to give as much allegiance as the country leaders would hope for. I think that the first century Christians felt this tension as well, as they lived under the Roman Empire. It is difficult to give allegiance to a country when we have been baptized into a new, world-wide community and sworn fealty to a King which supercedes governments on Earth.

Nationalism is a very dangerous force, and it is in its nature to both draw together and divide. It is the part that divides people which makes me nervous. Nationalism draws together people like "me," people who live in America, and though there is surely a lot of variation within America, I think we are more similar than different. But that same force causes us to drive others away. Nationalism places people into two different categories; American, and Not American. It is this divisive force which worries and upsets me.

While Nationalism holds its ground based on division, Christianity places all people into one group: God's beloved. Christianity calls us to love those that are not like us, the tax collector, the prostitute, the Samaritan, the enemy. Jesus says in Matthew that anyone can love people that love them. Anyone can love a friend, but it takes God's love to love an enemy, yet that is what we are called to do.

What makes me most uneasy is the marrying of nationalism and Christianity to the point where God is seen as America's God to the exclusion of other peoples. This is often done unknowingly and inadvertently, but the danger still remains. For more thoughts on this topic, presented in a more complete way, read Lee Camp's "*Mere Discipleship*."

-Phil



Bob & Shirley Scott were baptized into Christ June 14 by their son, Brian, who is a minister in Ohio. We are delighted by their decision. Bob is now retired after working for 33 years at Alcoa Aluminum Plant in Lafayette, and Shirley taught for the Frontier School Corporation for 34 years. They spend the winter in Florida. Their son, Brady, and his wife and son, Stephanie and Carter, as well as Brian's wife, Leanne, and Bob & Shirley's Life Group were there to witness it. Their address is 4704 Gertrude Lane, Lafayette 47905; phone: 589-3491. Congratulations, Scotts!

VBS needs....

Please help make our Vacation Bible School successful! If you have any of the following items, would you mind bringing them to church? Tape your name on the item and place it in the VBS box in the Farris foyer as soon as possible. Thanks so much.

- Four 6-foot stepladders
 - 12 plastic plants
 - 2 dropcloths
 - 2 dowel rods
- Red rope or cord
- Small, dark, plastic tarp
 - Clothesline
 - Pocketknife
 - Electric campfire
- 1 medical or drywall mask
 - Newspaper
 - Firewood - 10 logs
- Plastic tubs (18) big enough for children's feet



June 27, 7 PM...Bible class for all
July 1, 6 PM...Farrell Simmerman leads our worship with song; Finger Foods to follow
July 8, AM worship hours...Prospective preacher, Joey Gafford, will speak
August 8-12...Vacation Bible School

Read:
I Chronicles 26-29; Proverbs 15-24; Matt. 22:23-25:46

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 28: July 9-15

Motives! Just the word makes us stop and reflect. Ask newlyweds in their twenties why they got married and you will probably get a quick response that is self evident. "We were in love." Ask couples in their fifties and you might get a little more thoughtful response. "It's a mystery." Both couples experienced the same kind of love but in the later case, time and self reflection have brought about a little more candor about their motives. There may, in fact, have been a number of reasons why a couple got married, some of which were good and maybe others not as noble.

I Chronicles 28:9 says, "The Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts" and Proverbs 16:2 says, "All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighted by the Lord." The motives of some people can be seen for what they are, either good or bad. Some people hide their true motives because they want to deceive someone for one reason or another. The motives of some are hidden because they have not examined the things that influence them from deep within.

How many times have you heard someone say, "love is something you do"? The members of the church in Corinth were glad to use their gifts, but Paul needed to remind them that "doing" things is not enough. Paul says, "if I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." So, how do we know if we are doing things out of love? I Corinthians 13:4-7 seems to be a pretty good test, but it does require some self examination. -Jim Levick

 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 Matthews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774	
Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	<th> Staff</th> <td></td>	 Staff	
	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874		

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This Week's Highlight: A Task for Elmwood

Commitments to new directions in ministry (developing a shared vision, partnership, and commitment for ministry in the future)

During the interim period the congregation needs to become ready to make a commitment to the new preacher it will soon call. If a congregation is not ready to welcome and work with the new preacher, it will in effect undermine its ministry in the future. The congregation needs to develop a sense of anticipation and hope for the future, based on an understanding of the ministry which the congregation begins to envision of itself. The calling of a new leader should be seen as the extension of the congregation's developing new hope and new vision.

This task includes learning from the past so that we see the future in better ways, facing up to our self-image in ways that enable us to discover a new identity which will excite and motivate us in facing the future, allowing leadership changes to take place so that the future ministry of the church can be enriched by the skills and contributions of dedicated leaders, and renewing congregational commitments so that future ministry will include all the richness of its heritage and current mission.

**Prospective preacher candidates will be at Elmwood on the weekends of July 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29 to meet the congregation, share ideas, answer questions, etc.
Plan to be here to meet them.**