



Mentors

As I listened to Josh on Sunday morning, lots of memories flooded my mind and my heart. I have been so blessed to have some incredible mentors over the years. I remember my first group of elders at the Vine St. Church of Christ. I am so thankful they were willing to take the risk of making me their youth minister as a sophomore in college...I am more thankful for the weekly lunches we had as they intentionally mentored and disciplined me, what a great way to start full-time ministry. I am thankful for Marlin Hoffman. Marlin was a preacher who had to unfortunately end his ministry early. The remaining years of his life were spent listening to young men and women quote and memorize scripture. Marlin loved God, loved His Word and loved us. He challenged us to memorize more than we thought we could. At one stretch, we memorized 3,000 verses in about 18 months...many of those verses are still available in my memory, even if they are in the RSV. I am thankful to Sharon's dad, Jim Hance. He was the preacher during my second ministry. We had six wonderful years of ministry together and he challenged me to broaden my reading interests (if you have seen my books, you know it worked) and he is also the one who still shapes my public speaking more than anyone else.

Where do your memories take you? Did you take the time to thank your mentors as Josh challenged us? What are you doing to help mentor others?

Josh challenged us to consider ways we might mentor others. There are many opportunities for us to be involved in the lives of others (please know you do not have to be older to mentor someone). For many years, lots of you have been mentoring others by teaching them in class, by modeling godly lives, and by your encouraging words. Many of you are mentoring students by participating in our Partners in Prayer ministry. Some of you have "adopted" college students and are serving as great mentors. Other opportunities abound. Have you thought about volunteering as a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister"? There is always a waiting list of kids. I have mentioned this before, but serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a great way to mentor young people – see me if you want more details. Sharon and I see foster parenting as an opportunity to minister to kids in need and to be mentors. The opportunities and list goes on...you have been blessed, pass it on; it is the Jesus thing to do. -Lee

Help Wanted!

Noah's Ark Night is scheduled for Saturday night, October 20 from 5 to 8 PM. This is a very important annual event for our children and for the community around Elmwood.

Each year, Elmwood members decorate the building and set up games and activities as a safe Halloween alternative – it keeps the children inside instead of on the streets and it provides an environment where parents don't have to worry about the safety of their children and whether or not the candy they bring home is safe. The biggest blessing we get from participating as adults is that we get to really interact with the children instead of just handing out candy.

We always have many guests... plan to come, run an activity or two, and let's help Lynae and her crew make this the best year ever. If you would like to sign up, see Lynae or call the church office. -Lee

Thank You!

Dear Elmwood Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, encouraging words, and help that was offered from so many of you during our crazy weekend visit. It meant so much to my family and me. Everyone has been so great to us. I can't wait to get this new journey started with you. It feels good call you my Elmwood family. —Gilbert & Kate Kerrigan

Upcoming Baby Showers



Joyce Mathews is hosting a baby shower at her home (1412 Fairfax Dr., Lafayette—south) for **Sarah Bird on October 14, from 2:00 until 4:00 in the afternoon.** For a group gift, give your contributions to Miranda Parson, Sharon Porter or Joyce.

Hedi Devine (715 Noble Ct., West Lafayette) is hosting a baby shower for her daughter and son-in-law, **Karen & Kenji Totsuka, on Saturday, October 20, from 1:00 until 3:00 in the afternoon.** For a gift list to choose from, Karen is registered at Target. R.S.V.P. 497-3061.

Grocery Shower

Lynae Stafford is hosting a grocery shower for **Sonja (Meador) Pritchett** this Sunday, **October 7 from 3:00-5:00 PM.** For a group Grocery Store gift certificate you may give your money to Carol Bell, Becky Pitt, or Lynae Stafford.

Opportunities to serve our community

It's Dutch Apple Pie time at Lafayette Christian School. With willing hands, 390 bushels of apples turn into 7,000 pies in two days. Volunteers are needed to fold boxes, peel apples, assemble pies, or work in the freezer trucks on Tuesday, October 9, and Wednesday, October 10. (*Several Elmwood teens plan to work Wednesday afternoon till Bible class.*) For more information contact Jayne King at 742-3462 or the school at 447-3052.

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 10, 9:30-11:30 AM, or 7:00-9:00 PM. Please call 742-1533 or email anjiematrix@insightbb.com to RSVP for the session of your choice by Tuesday, October 9. The Matrix office is located at 1824 Maple Street in Lafayette.



New Address for the Crowes

Gayle & Lisa Crowe have recently moved to their new home. Their new address: 4033 Sweetberry Drive Cane Ridge, TN 37013



LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night, September 24, were **Betty Brown, Susan Swensen, Susan Huff, and Jamie Banter.**

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. The sign up sheet for November-April is available for you to select the date of your choice.

September 30, 2007

Class: 180 Worship: 265

Contribution: \$6,823

Budget: \$10,000/week

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Amos

The first couple of chapters in the book of Amos make up one of my favorite passages in the Bible. It's not really my favorite passage because it conveys deep spiritual truths (at least not in and of itself), but because I can imagine the reaction that the text (or the voice of Amos) would receive when presented to the Israelite people.

Amos' job, being a prophet, was not to bring comfort or stability to the Israelite people, it was his job to stir up the people and show them how they had departed from Yahweh. It was his job to stand up and shout "Hey, you are doing it all wrong, return to the LORD!"

In the very opening section of the book, Amos really lays into Israel's enemies, talking about each of Israel's neighbors. Amos gives the word of the LORD: "For three transgressions and for four, I will not revoke the punishment" and then proceeds to explain why each country is receiving punishment and what that punishment will be. Six times, with six different countries that are enemies to Israel Amos outlines their foibles and their punishments. Saying over and over again "for three transgressions and for four". One can imagine the speech, given in a strong voice. The Israelites are getting whipped into a frenzy, thinking to themselves "YES! Those people are scum, we hate them, we can't wait to see their punishment!" Then Amos turns the screw a little tighter. Judah, Israel's long lost brother, now being a strenuous relationship between them due to political circumstances, is under attack.

At this point, the crowd must have been shouting their assent, they were finally able to see that all of their enemies were going to be punished because their enemies did not follow the LORD. But then the hammer falls, all the wind leaves their sails, and they are horrified. Amos says "For three transgressions of Israel." One can imagine the crowd immediately becoming silent with fear and hurt, knowing that soon their offenses to God and their punishment will be revealed.

The prophet Amos had stirred up the people, shown them their faults and called them back to God, but the way he did it was amazing—a verbal trap, designed to ensnare the listener to hear the word of the LORD.

So what's the point? Well, I've often thought that Amos was applicable to the Church on many occasions. I encourage us to not simply point fingers at those around us and say, "look how they don't follow the Lord," but to also be active in self examination so that we are not caught off guard by a prophet bringing God's word to us about our own faults. The Israelites problem was that they were greedy with their money, and they didn't take care of the poor and the helpless, in fact, they cheated them. Do we have things that we need to work on? Do we have transgressions?
—Phil



Experiencing a brief setback, **Max Houlton** is now at home after a few days in St. Elizabeth Hospital.... **Delpha Allen** has been moved to St. Anthony's Health Care....Continue praying for **Susan Swensen, Ellen Raguette, Chuck Smith, Valley Stockton, Dick Waterstraat, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebcke, Charles Moore, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable, Michael Farris, & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson, and Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

New Start Date for Sunday Morning Class

The starting date for a new class open to men and women, has been changed to **Sunday morning, October 21st.** It is a study of the four New Testament gospels with emphasis on their similarity, content, and application of material to our Christian walk. If you have any questions, contact teacher, Chuck Brown.

A Change for Preschool Worship

Preschool Worship for ages 3 – kindergarten **WILL NO LONGER MEET DURING 1st SERVICE.** **Preschool worship will meet during 2nd service only, along with the Children's Church for grades 1-5.**



- October 3, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
- Oct. 7, 3-5 PM....Grocery Shower for **Sonja Pritchett** at Lynae Stafford's, 408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette
- October 7, 6 PM....Worship at Elmwood; Finger Foods
- Oct. 14, 2-4 PM....Baby shower for Sarah Bird at Joyce Mathews' home, 1412 Fairfax Dr., Lafayette
- Oct. 20, 1-3 PM....Baby shower for Karen (Devine) Totsuka at Hedi Devine's home, 715 Noble Ct., WL

Read:
Jer. 17-32; Psalms 131-140
Titus; Philemon, John 1-2

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 42: October 15-21

Titus

Spanning only three short chapters, the book of Titus is not quite the shortest book in The Bible, but it is close. It is also one of the most beautiful. Paul's letter to his friend and colleague on the island of Crete was written around 64 A.D., to buck up his spirits and reassure him of the Christian path ahead. Two millennia later, Paul's purpose is the same for us.

Here is some of the most remarkable writing in the Bible — but its beauty is in its simplicity. Paul speaks plainly to Titus, although never condescendingly. "The grace of God teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions," Paul writes (2:11), "and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."


Crete, in that "present age," was a cultural cesspool with many similarities to our world today. Paul's point to Titus, and God's to us, is that teaching the Christian faith in such a world really involves more than teaching. It involves guidance, encouragement, correction, warning and reassurance. A continual process. A way of life.

But there is also the comfort that we are all fallen, and all capable of picking ourselves up again through faith. "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures," Paul notes (3:3). "We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

Trustworthy words 2,000 years ago, when they traveled across the Mediterranean Sea to reach out and reassure the early Christians. And still trustworthy today.

—J.T. Rushing

 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
	 Staff	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	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	

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