



Did You Feel It?

After Sunday morning's services, several people mentioned that they sensed a "spirit of excitement" in the air they had not sensed in a while. Did you feel it? Elmwood is entering a "new age." Gilbert is really excited about the work here at Elmwood and it seems Elmwood is excited the Kerrigans are coming. The foundation has been well established for us to move forward in God's work in this place and I can't wait to see what He has in mind for all of us. Gilbert has a passion for things that are very important to us: commitment to God's Word, lost people, small groups, campus ministry, and the list goes on. If you weren't able to be with us on Sunday, you missed a special time. It was obvious the retreats for the campus group and the men had an important role in all that was going on and being felt, but there was something deeper. I firmly believe that God's Holy Spirit is preparing us to take things "to the next level."

Where do you fit in to all of this? I'm glad you asked. The SHAPE studies and the interviews are designed to help you discover just that. What are your spiritual gifts? What do you have the heart for? What are your abilities? What service areas fit your personality? And finally, what life experiences do you have that will be useful to others? It is time to put those things to work...they are gifts from God; let's use them to His glory.

Some of you will not be surprised about this, but I believe the greatest work you can do as we enter this new era is to be fervent in prayer. If you have been part of the first two LIFE groups for this year, you have studied Jonah and Hannah. These are two incredibly different stories, but they share one very important ingredient...prayer. While still in the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed to God and thanked Him for rescuing him and allowing him to serve him in the future. Did I mention he was still inside the fish's belly? That is a bold prayer! God answered in a very favorable way. Hannah on the other hand, was persistent in one specific prayer and once again, God had a positive response. Let's be like these two and be bold and persistent in our prayer lives as we enter this new era in the life of the Elmwood Church of Christ. These are exciting times...do you feel it?
– Lee

Jonah & LIFE Groups

You might think the above a strange title for an article. However, there may be more association than you think. Last week our Life Groups studied the Old Testament character of Jonah. Jonah had a problem we sometimes face today. He tried to run from the responsibility that God assigned to him. If you're not familiar with the story, look up the book of Jonah in the Old Testament and read it. It's a short book. To spoil the ending for you, after a short boat trip, Jonah did what God told him to do but he still didn't like it. However, God liked it and there were those in Nineveh that lived because of Jonah's going where he was called to go and doing what God told him to do.

So, how does that tie to Life Groups? Are you attending a Group now? If yes, then how are you responding to God's plan to use you to reach out to others? Don't be like Jonah. Let God use you for his purposes. Do you contribute to the discussion? Do you support and pray for your leader(s) and other members of your group? Or, like Jonah, are you trying to run from God's call to take the responsibility that he has assigned to you?

If you're not in a Life Group, what are you waiting for? Remember what happened to Jonah. Don't go near the banks of the Wabash!

This week we studied Hannah. Next week we study Samuel. Why not attend one of the many Groups meeting all over Lafayette and learn what you have in common with these "characters"?
–Joe Mathews



Carrie High, a longtime Elmwood member, died Friday afternoon after recent complications from Alzheimer's. She was 97 years old. Until recent years she had lived with her daughter, Vernell Swank. Along with Vernell, her children, Gene High and Louise Huddleston, had faithfully gone to feed her every day. Her funeral was Tuesday at Hippensteel Funeral Home with Gayle Crowe officiating. Our sincere sympathies to Gene, Vernell and Louise.

Donnie Pettit, 52, brother of Mickey Rigdon, died Saturday afternoon. Told just a short time ago that he had pancreatic cancer, he had no treatment but was positive and not complaining until the end. His funeral was Wednesday at 1:00 at Goodwin Funeral Home in Frankfort.

A Baby Shower for Karen & Kenji



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.

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

The Smith/Swensen Sunday morning class will offer an opportunity to study N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*.

"Not since C.S. Lewis's classic summary of the faith, *Mere Christianity* has such a wise and thorough scholar taken the time to explain to anyone who wants to know what Christianity really is and how it is practiced....*Simply Christian* walks the reader through the Christian faith step by step and question by question."

The class will meet in room 19.



To the minister (Lee Porter) and all the members (Senior Servants) who sign my card. I want to thank you very much. God bless you for being so kind. —Phyllis McQuisten

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Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recent health struggles. I appreciate my church family more than you know. —Bob Stafford



A Change for Preschool Worship

Preschool Worship for ages 4 – 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.

Grocery Shower



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

Prayer Partners 2007

Thank God for each of you and your willingness to pray each day for your student partner! In the next few weeks please send a card to your partner and let them know you are their partner. Thanks.

—Christi Branstetter

September 23, 2007

Class: 177 Worship: 285

Contribution: \$5,751

Budget: \$10,000/week

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Retreat Report

This past weekend students from the Christian Student Center traveled to Camp Tecumseh, a large YMCA camp north of Brookston, for our annual campus retreat.

For those who don't know, the purpose of the retreat is to have a time away from the pressures of school where the students can study the word of God more intensely than during a normal week. This weekend also gives the students time to build relationships with one another that are so very important to the Christian walk.

We asked Sam Barrington, a minister at a church in South Bend, Indiana, to come down for the weekend and join us, and lead us through a study. His series of talks were titled "High Energy Faith" and he used energy drinks (a popular type of drink for late night study sessions) as a spring board to talk about three areas of our faith. His first talk was titled, "Tapping into God's energy source" where he stressed the importance of remembering the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, especially when we need that "spiritual energy boost" to be able to continue on.

Sam's second talk was called "Entering Into Training" and he focused on encouraging us to stop trying to be like Christ, and to start *Training* to be like Christ. His thesis was that training is something that one can do now by sheer effort, to build up strength to have the ability to do something that they cannot do now by sheer effort.

Finally Sam talked about how to handle those spiritual low times. He directed us towards the Psalms and reminded us that it is good to be honest with God and oneself when experiencing a spiritual low. Sam pointed to many of David's Psalms that express frustration, despair, and a questioning attitude towards God.

There was also much to do in the way of building relationships between students. Besides having some free time to simply talk and learn more about each other, there were many activities that the students could participate in. Some of the many activities that students took part in were: Ultimate Frisbee, basketball, rock climbing, riflery, archery, horseback riding, campfire, and sliding down large pipes on plastic snow sleds.

All in all, it was a good weekend for deepening our relationship with God as well as creating new relationships, and deepening our already cherished relationships with one another. Thanks to everyone who went to the trip, and to everyone who made it possible. —Phil



Max Houlton had successful surgery last week. He is home and doing amazingly well! Praise God!...**Bob Stafford's** recent doctor's visit was good—no infection—and he is feeling much better....**Delpha Allen** is now in Rosewalk Village as she continues to recover from recent health problems....**Ellen Raguette** Dovie Hurst's daughter in Woodbridge, Virginia, fell and broke her leg. She is scheduled to have surgery on Wednesday....Brenda Gibson's nephew, **Chuck Smith**, is now in Chicago for 6-8 weeks of physical therapy. His positive attitude is helping him adjust to the paralysis.... Continue praying for **Susan Swensen, Valley Stockton, Dick Waterstraat, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, 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 Sunday Morning Class

A new class open to men and women will begin on **Sunday morning, October 7th**. 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 Chuck Brown.

Children's Church

Children's Church for children in grades 1-5 will not meet this Sunday, September 30.



September 26, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
September 30, 6 PM....LIFE Groups
October 7, 3-5 PM....Grocery Shower for Sonja Meador
at Lynae Stafford's, 408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette

Read:
 Jer. 1-16; Psalms 120-130
 I Tim. 4-6; II Timothy

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 41: October 8-14

"Lord, before whose eyes the abyss of man's conscience lies naked, what thing within me could be hidden from you, even if I would not confess it to you? I would be hiding you from myself, not myself from you."

As the author of surely the most famous confession ever written, Augustine (who lived from 354 to 430) knew the value of confession – of prying open and exposing to the Light every dark nook and cranny of the heart. Although he was a highly educated man, a master of rhetoric, and later a bishop of the Catholic Church, he lays it all out there – his weaknesses and faults, from the most petty to the most profound – although that's a distinction he would not make, treating all with equal seriousness. He was a man who was not going to let pride, shame, or fear get in the way of his relationship with God; as he noted, to attempt to hide one's sin is just to cut oneself off from the God who already knows you better than you know yourself.

Yet still, we are afraid and we want to hide. That's what makes reading Jeremiah's book so heartbreaking. Through Jeremiah, God calls out to his people in great frustration. They have courted their own destruction for years, and now it is upon them. Yet still God calls out to them, *"Return, faithless Israel, ... I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, ..."* (3:12-13). God waits for repentance, but hears none: *"I have given heed and listened, but they do not speak honestly; no one repents of wickedness, saying, 'What have I done!'"* (8:4-5).

Since I tend to be like stubborn Israel, it's refreshing to read the Confessions of St. Augustine, and to consider his honesty a challenge to myself not to make the mistake of hiding from God what cannot be hidden, but to accept the blessing of confessing, repenting, and being at peace with my God who loves me.

–Laura Barlament

 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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