



Looking Forward

Goodbye, 2008.
Hello, 2009.

We have crossed the bridge and have entered into a new year. Can you believe 2008 has come and gone? It seemed to have flown by, although I guess it moved just as quickly as any other year. With 2008 behind us, what do we have to look forward to in 2009?

I cannot answer that question for the whole year, but let me give you a few things to be aware of for the next 4 months. If you were able to worship with us this past Sunday then you know the journey we are going to take. For those of you who were not here, let me give a quick recap.

For the next four months our sermons and our LIFE Groups will be focused on the same topic. In Acts 2:42 we find the earliest believers devoting themselves to four areas: studying the scriptures, sharing in fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. James A. Harding, an early Restoration leader, spoke of these disciplines as *the four great means of grace* through which God acts among, in, and through His church. Another early church leader once wrote that if a believer will practice these four means of grace until the end of life that believer cannot be lost. This will be our guide for the next four months. Please join us as we rediscover this truly simple model.

Also, remember that for at least the next three months you can hear past Elmwood sermons on Sunday mornings, 7:30am – 8:00am, by tuning your radio to 96.5 WAZY FM. Be sure to pass the word around about this great opportunity for us to reach the community with God's word.

I know that 2009 will be full of many more great opportunities and blessings. I'm looking forward to it!

~Gilbert

Are You a Fast Reader?

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

This text reminds us of an important fact—that the Word of God is living and active!

In ancient times stories were considered to be alive, until someone wrote them down. When a story was passed down verbally, it was easily changed to make the story relevant to a new set of listeners. But when a story was written down, it was no longer able to be changed; it was thought to be dead.

The Word of God is written down, but it is not dead. The Word of God is relevant to all who read it in all times and all places. The Word of God is not only alive, but it is active! Not only is the Word of God still relevant to us today, but it is formative. The Word of God is not just a story, it is scripture that guides and directs us actively!

Often in our personal and corporate Bible studies, we tend to set goals for ourselves—perhaps it is to read through a Bible in a year. But I encourage us to slow down, to remember the text is alive and active, deep, and meaningful. Rushing through a text in an effort to impress others—or ourselves—denies the scripture its depth and we often miss out on both the meaning of the scripture and the presence of God therein.

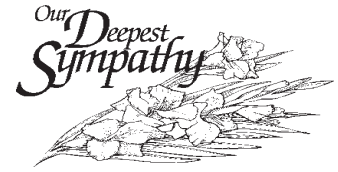
-Phil

Annie Crowder is having tests this week and will likely have surgery some time next week....Hedi Devine has flown to Germany to be with her mother, **Agnes Schubert**, who is battling cancer....**Cherie Hanson**, Kay Tavana's oldest sister, has been diagnosed with breast cancer....**Diane West**, Andrea Browell's older sister, has begun chemotherapy following surgery for breast cancer....**Pete Swank** had hernia surgery in mid-December.

Three aneurysms were detected that doctors will be watching closely....**Ethel Cable** is now at Heritage Healthcare, 3401 Soldiers Home Rd., West Lafayette, recuperating from an earlier fall. It will likely be a lengthy recovery (broken pelvis)....**Phyllis Gray** has had medical tests recently. Pray the doctors will discover the reason for her discomfort....Continue praying for **Dick Stout, Eric Waltz** (Bob's brother), **Dorothy Walters, Eileen Richardson, Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White, Willie Batts, Edith McCoy Digby House**, **Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, Lance & Lane Pepper, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Marge Campbell, Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, and Minnie Scott.**

Serving in our military: **Shawn Wilson.**

Several of our number have already left for warmer weather in Florida for the winter months. Pray for safe traveling for **Gene & Nancy High, Bob & Shirley Scott, Mike & Scheryl Gaylor, Don & Patty Vice, Bernie & Armilda Follick, and Sam & Sara Postlethwait.**



Josh Boyd's maternal grandmother, **Mary Bradley**, died Monday afternoon. She was 85 years old. Her funeral will be Thursday afternoon in Portland, Tennessee. Our heartfelt sympathies to Josh, his mother, Lanita, and the rest of their family.

Snow Servants



The snow servants this week (1/4-10) for light snow removal are **Jim & Carol Bailey, 447-6741.**



Dear Elmwood church family,

Cheryl and I cannot begin to thank everyone who contributed to this work through the special year end contribution! What a long list of precious people!! We are SO blessed by your great generosity and kindness in the Lord! This is very helpful to us right now. We praise God for your responsive hearts. THANK YOU!!!

In this new year, we are following God's leading in helping to start churches in the French West Indies, Quebec and France, and several indirectly in Senegal, Mauritania, C.A.R., Congo, Togo, and Benin. Please pray that doors are opened and many become faithful followers of Christ!

May God richly bless each one of you who gave! With much love in Christ Jesus,
Bren & Cheryl White

Dear Elmwood church,

We want to thank you for the pretty embroidered blanket! That was so thoughtful of you to get something for Amanda. We will treasure it. We have recently moved to Zionsville, Indiana. Thank you again for the beautiful gift.

-Jenna, Craig, Ashleigh, Noah & Amanda Powlen

Thanks to all who made my 92nd birthday a very happy one.

-Bill Farris

December 21, 2008

Class: 159 Worship: 231

Contribution: \$4,370

December 28, 2008

Class: 136 Worship: 212

Contribution: \$6,458

January 4, 2009

Class: 159 Worship: 253

Contribution: 10,456

The final amount (Christmas Card Fund) sent to Bren & Cheryl White was \$2,104.

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.



Randy's coming back!

I know that summer is several months away and I am aware that Randy Kerrigan is going to be our summer intern, but I would like for you to be preparing for him, starting now. I imagine that some of you figure that since Randy is Gilbert's brother that he will just go live there for the summer. Not so! He will probably spend a couple weeks there, but we would like Randy to have the same experience of living with several of our families during the summer that our other interns have had. It gives them a little better insight to who we are as a church family. So, if you would be willing to have Randy live with your family for a couple weeks or so this summer, please let Gilbert or me know. Also, we would like for Elmwood families to help feed him while he is with us. A little later in the year, we will post a sign up so you can pick a time or times your family would like to have Randy over or out for a meal. The intern ministry has been very good to Elmwood. Most of you know that our campus minister, Phil Travis was a summer intern for us and some of you may not know this, but Steve Corp (former intern) has just been selected as the new youth minister for the church in Sullivan, IN; Elmwood is having impact on the brotherhood at large by providing training for future ministers.

Skiing

Weather cooperating, we are planning to go skiing to Paoli Peaks on Saturday, January 17. This will be a one day trip and thus will be less expensive than if we stayed overnight. The only costs will be: lift ticket, rentals, travel, and meals. If you are interested in going, please see Bill Bell as soon as possible.

Winterfest

You haven't missed the van yet, but time is running out! We will be ordering tickets next week and we need to know if you plan to go. We can purchase tickets as long as they are available, but you run a risk of us not being able to get more tickets for the same session if you wait. Please get your \$25 for the rally, \$8 for a shirt (if you want one) and \$8 for the concert (if you want to go) by this Sunday. Winterfest is always full of blessings...don't miss yours!

LTC

Don't forget to get your forms in to Barb Tilley, soon. She needs to be rounding up the coaches, etc., so she needs to know what events you plan to do. Also, don't forget your T-shirt designs need to be turned in to Sharon Porter by the 19th.

- Lee

2009 Spiritual Adventures

We have a tradition for some time now of printing a weekly article on the back of our newsletter titled, "Spiritual Adventure." To continue this tradition we are once again in need of volunteers to write these articles. The Bible is divided into weekly readings and you would need to write something of your choosing to correspond to the reading for that week. If interested, please call the church office and Carol will notify you of your writing assignment. We hope you enjoy writing these as much as we all enjoy reading your insights and stories of faith.

Lafayette Crisis Center Seeking Volunteers

The Lafayette Crisis Center is seeking new volunteers. They are a non-profit 24/7 Crisis/I & R hotline that provides a wide range of service to our community. Phones are answered by non-judgemental volunteers who provide a caring ear to those in need whether it be someone seeking financial assistance to avoid being evicted or a concerned parent struggling to connect with their child. Complete training is provided. No experience is necessary! Evening training begins February 3, 2009 and day training begins January 28, 2009. Call (765) 742-0247 and ask for Mike to get more information.

*Our vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known*



**January 7, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
January 11....Life Groups resume meeting**

Read:
Exodus 1-18;
Luke 11:29-14:35






2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 4: January 19-25

“O LORD, PLEASE SEND SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT”

EXODUS 4:13

Has it ever happened that you knew something that needed to be done and you really didn't want to do it? Has it happened this past week? If your answer is yes, then I would say you're normal. If you quickly generated reasons (excuses) why you really couldn't do it, I would say you're normal. But, you know what? God can use you in spite of all the excuses you can invent. How do I know that? I have read what God did with Moses - Exodus 3-14. God: "...go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." Moses: "Who am I" (this is not my gift or forte), *they won't believe ME, I need a sign of authority, I can't talk well...*" God said, "I will be with you...." Do you remember what happened? God, through the use of Moses, led the children of Israel out of Egypt and used him for much, much more. Moses was right – he didn't have the capacity to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt but God could use him to do it. AND so it is with me (us), I (we) am like Moses, but God can use me (us) for a lot of things that I'm (we're) not able to do by myself (ourselves). *"I can do everything through him who gives me strength"* Philippians 4:13. -Sam Postlethwait

 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 Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

Periodical
 Postage
PAID
 at
 Lafayette, IN