



The Benefits of Listening

One of the most important topics covered in premarital counseling is communication. Communication is key to relationship survival. All types of relationships, not just marriages, must have healthy communication to survive. And one of the keys to healthy communication is to remember that good listening is just as important as good sharing.

The writer of Proverbs hits on the topic of listening many times throughout the book. A quick reading of Proverbs will uncover many nuggets of wisdom regarding the importance of listening, such as:

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.
~ 12:15

If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. ~ 15:31

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish. ~ 18:13

James also reminds us that we should all be “*quick to listen, slow to speak*” (1:19).

I believe if we would all take more time to listen to others we would be amazed at what we might hear. When we listen to others we might just hear a word from the Lord. When we listen to others we might be given clues as to how to best minister to each other. When we listen to others we might hear our own stories and realize how similar we all are. When we listen to others we might be blessed beyond our own expectations. When we listen to others our words may not be needed to say we care.

I have a tendency to talk too much. Maybe you have that same problem. We do not need more talkers in the church. We need more listeners. Maybe that is why Jesus kept going around saying, “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*” Listening seems to be a gift for some. For the rest of us it takes practice, but it will be practice well worth undertaking.

Dear God, help us all to be quick to listen and slow to speak.
Amen. -Gilbert

The Dark Night

John of the Cross, an important figure of the Catholic Reform lived in the 16th century. His work, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, though it was written over four hundred years ago, still functions as an important part of the Christian understanding of the spiritual journey.

John wrote *“The Dark Night”* after he was arrested and while he was in confinement. The basic idea behind his work is that at the beginning of the Christian walk people find pleasure in following God. Then after a time God will draw a person from the beginning stage (that time when one does things that God wants them to simply because they ifeel goodi) to a more advanced stage. It is during this time that, according to John, one experiences the dark night of the soul.

It is a common thing to happen to Christians that at some point along the Christian walk the feelings of joy and happiness of doing Godis will gives way to a time where those feelings are gone. Johnis position is that God purposely takes away these things -- these ispiritual consolationsi-- in order to develop a person more fully. John gives a number of reasons how those feelings can become dangerous ñ even sinful to a developing Christian.

Perhaps you are experiencing your own idark night of the souli -- a time when joys and delights seem to vanish. You should know that you are not alone. Many Christians experience their own idark nighti. I encourage you to not give up when you enter into this time. It can be a source of spiritual growth greater than any you have experienced. Persevere through these changes as God draws you closer to him.

-Phil

Valley Stockton is back at Regency Place....
Hattie Coffel is now at Seton Specialty Hospital, room 2320 (located in St. Elizabeth Hospital). She is slowly improving...Continue praying for **Irene Fox** (hospice care), **Steve Cable**, **Steve High**, **Eva Wilson** (*Vickie Sanders' mother, stroke*), **Willie Batts**, **Edith McCoy**, **Mike Sutherlin**, **Leon Johnson**, **Bernie Ciota**, **Randi Verett**, **Jean Stockberger**, **Lance & Lane Pepper**, **Eileen Richardson**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Amanda Powlen**, **Julie Lichty**, **Pat Johnson**, **Marge Campbell**, **Irene Sims**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, **Eagle Bailey**, & **Minnie Scott**.



Serving in our military: **Philip Devine**, **Mark Wilson** and **Shawn Wilson**.

Our Sympathies....

Karin Peckinpaugh, mother-in-law of our Kelly Peckinpaugh, died Saturday, October 18. She was 56 years old, and had been a longtime teacher in the Tippecanoe School Corporation. She had been ill in recent years. Friends may visit with the family Wednesday, October 22, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM, at Soller-Baker on Twyckenham. Her funeral is Thursday at 2:00 PM. Our sincere sympathies to the Peckinpaugh family.



Elmwood is hosting a "Trunk -or-Treat" in the parking lot this Saturday, **October 25, from 4 PM until 7 PM**. Katy Travis, Rachel Ravellette and Dana Miller are planning the event that will be open to the community as well as the Elmwood family. EVERYONE (parents, bachelors, people with kids and without kids) is encouraged to decorate your car trunk, van back, truck bed, etc. with a theme of your choosing. Then park your vehicle in the parking lot (rears of cars facing out) for all the kids to visit. Each person is encouraged to have something at your vehicle (game, puppet show, etc.) and candy for the children. As always, this is a **Halloween Alternative** so if your children wish to dress up, we encourage nice costumes--NO witches, etc. A sign-up sheet is posted in the foyer for those who would like to bring a food item, donate decorations, help in the kitchen, etc.

Men's Retreat: November 7-9

FAITH is the theme for this year's men's retreat held on **November 7-9**. Cost is \$20 for student; \$30 for single; and \$40 for a family. Registration is Friday evening from 5:00 until 6:00. Chili will be served before the first session at 7:00. The study will be taken from the book of James. Jason Cochran will speak on **Faith: the Test**. The two Saturday sessions will start with Bob Waltz's, **Faith: the Evidence**; and end with Tom Miller's, **Faith: the Prayer**. Rooms are available for those who want to stay Friday night and Saturday night. Sunday morning there will be a short wrap up and conclude with the Lord's Supper before heading back to the church building for second service. Contact me at 474-3110 for more details.
 -Kevin Walters



Update from Poland...

Thelma Hoyt is in Sopot, Poland, working with missionaries, Mike & Molly Dawidow.

Dear Church Family,
 We arrived safely yesterday (Friday), and have had a busy day today. Sara and Harry Hodges are here with me and Glen Runion, a former Elmwood member, now living in Texas, is here too. We all have a full schedule for the following week. Keep us in your prayers, that through the Holy Spirit we will touch lives. God richly bless all of you.
 Love, Thelma

Parents:

There will be **NO Children's Church** (grades 1-5) this **Sunday, October 26**, as that is the 4th Sunday of the month.



Last week's newsletter incorrectly stated some information about Jason Reel. He is with the Marine Corp and is training for Guney and will head up an Embassy. He and Laura and their children will leave in March for Embassy duty.

October 19, 2008

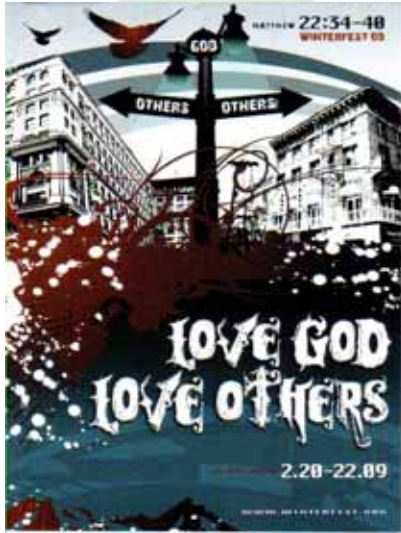
Class: 181 Worship: 275

Contribution: \$5,564

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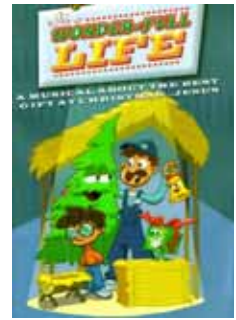
Winterfest 2009 It's Time to Make Your Plans



Winterfest is a weekend retreat going on for 20 years now. This retreat is geared toward middle and high school teens. This particular Winterfest is attended primarily by teens from acappella churches of Christ, although we have groups from several different fellowships that come back each year. We use teachers from our fellowship to teach and encourage teens in their walk with God. This weekend is geared toward discipleship. The teachers and guests that come use real life stories, drama, music and scripture to make the Christian life come alive to the teens involved. Our acappella praise and worship times are uplifting and engaging. We have contemporary Christian concerts at our events that are supplemental to the weekend (we have had Jars of Clay, Third Day, Newsboys, Audio A, Supertones, Tait, to name a few). Believing that the Christian life can be very joyful, we bring in the best Christian entertainers we can find to challenge teens with their lifestyle and their attitudes (we have had Bob Stromberg, Tom Tufts, CPR, Dr. Comedy, Bob Smiley, Brad Montague, 3-2-1, Bean & Bailey, to name a few). Winterfest is always the third weekend in February (20th-22nd, 2009) in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The theme for 2009 is Love God Love Others from Matthew 22:34-40. Mark your calendars now!

ñ Lee

It's a Wonder-Full LIFE Christmas Program



It's a Wonder-Full Life rehearsal is this Wednesday, **October 22**, at **6:45 PM**, for those in 1st grade through High School in the auditorium.

Chad & Becky Pitt will begin Christmas Program rehearsals for ages 4, 5, & Kindergarten children beginning this **Wednesday at 6:45 PM**. This group will meet in the Nursery School room. **1st graders are welcomed in either group.**

Senior Servants meet...

The Senior Servants will meet and eat at Golden Corral on **October 29 at 11:30 AM**. Everyone is welcome.

Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution, November 2



One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. **That collection will be on Sunday, November 2.** Shults-Lewis provides a safe, loving environment to children who otherwise would have no home or anyone to care for their needs. Our continued support is necessary for Shults-Lewis to become more responsive in reaching out to those in need.



October 22, 6:45 PM...Rehearsal for Christmas play, *"It's a Wonder-Full Life"*

October 22, 7 PM...Bible classes

October 25, 4-7 PM...*"Trunk or Treat,"*
Elmwood parking lot

October 26, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet

November 2, 4:30 in A-2...**mark your calendars, Parents' Meeting!**

Dec. 13... Christmas for Everyone (more details in upcoming newsletters)

Read:
Ezekiel 1-21; John 9-11

2008 Spiritual Adventure

Week 45: November 3-9

Ready Ourselves to be Harvested

As I write this article the farmers are busy taking advantage of the dry weather and the harvest moon to harvest their crops. In Indiana corn, soybeans, and wheat are the most common crops planted. Wheat is harvested in the summer, soybeans and corn in the fall.

A farmer friend and the father of five children once tried to clean a jam out of his corn picker. He made the critical error of not shutting the power off on his tractor. The corn picker grabbed his arm and pulled him up into the machine. He was fortunate that this happened about noon and his wife was bringing his lunch to him. She was able to shut the power off of the picker and save her husband's life. This was a life-changing event for him as he nearly lost his physical life.

We, too, can have a life-changing harvest! A harvest that is much more important than my friend's harvest. In John 4:35-38 Jesus is talking to his disciples about a different type of harvest. When he told them that the fields are ripe for the harvest, they must have been confused, because the local crops were not nearly ripe.

The harvest Jesus was referring to was a harvest of souls. This passage makes me realize that we should first make ourselves ready to be harvested. We should read the Word, listen to His Word, and try to understand why believing His Word is so important. Once we understand the good news of Jesus, we can certainly conclude that we need to repent of our sins, and be baptized. We then become a new creature, a child of God, a fellow worker in God's field! (1 Cor. 3:9)

—John Marks

Weekly Schedule

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.

 Our Vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known.

Elders

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

World Missions

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



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

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