



## Maintenance or Missional?

William Willimon, a noted scholar and leader in the Methodist churches, once asked on his blog, “*Are we maintenance churches or missional churches?*” He then suggested that the answer can be found in the types of questions we ask and in the focus of the leadership. Here is his list of differences between the two churches:

1. In measuring the effectiveness, the maintenance congregation asks, “How many pastoral visits are being made? The mission congregation asks, “How many disciples are being made?”
2. When contemplating some form of change, the maintenance congregation says, “If this proves upsetting to any of our members, we won’t do it.” The mission congregation says, “If this will help us reach someone on the outside, we will take the risk and do it.”
3. When thinking about change, the majority of members in a maintenance congregation ask, “How will this affect me?” The majority of members in the mission congregation ask, “Will this increase our ability to reach those outside?”
4. When thinking of its vision for ministry, the maintenance congregation says, “We have to be faithful to our past.” The mission congregation says, “We have to be faithful to our future.”
5. The pastor in the maintenance congregation says to the newcomer, “I’d like to introduce you to some of our members.” In the mission congregation the members say, “We’d like to introduce you to our pastor.”
6. When confronted with a legitimate pastoral concern, the pastor in the maintenance congregation asks, “How can I meet this need?” The pastor in the mission congregation asks, “How can this need be met?”
7. The maintenance congregation seeks to avoid conflict at any cost (but rarely succeeds). The mission congregation understands that conflict is the price of progress, and is willing to pay the price. It understands that it cannot take everyone with it. This causes some grief, but it does not keep it from doing what needs to be done.
8. The leadership style in the maintenance congregation is primarily managerial, where leaders try to keep everything in order and running smoothly. The leadership style in a mission congregation is primarily transformational, casting a vision of what can be, and marching off the map in order to bring the vision into reality.

*(continued at the bottom of next page)*

## The Importance of History

I’m not entirely sure that the Pharisees deserve all of the bad reputation that they garner. The Jews were subjected to slavery and then almost the whole populace was dispersed, leaving only a remnant of the people to continue to follow God as they understood him. If I were a Jew living in the time of Christ, worried about making sure that Jews don’t follow a false messiah, and concerned about preserving the Jews who remained true to the word of God, I think I might be a little strong on the rules and a little defensive about radical ideas myself.

Now I am not saying the Pharisees were right, only that it is not unreasonable for them to act in the way that they did. The Pharisees made many mistakes but I don’t believe that valuing the past, and attempting to call people back to their past was one of them. With all the new things going on, the Pharisees played the important role of reminding the people of their past.

We see the same thing in our churches today. There are some people who push for the next new thing, and there are some people who say, “Well wait a minute, shouldn’t we stay true to our history?” Both groups are important – they temper one another. So thank you to both groups – those of you who remind us of the past, and those of you who help direct us toward the future. We need to stay true to our past, and we need to see in what new ways God will use his people in this new world. *-Phil*

# Prayer concerns....

**Hattie Coffel** is still at St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3102, after recent surgery on her feet....**Irene Miller** had cataract surgery on Tuesday....**Melissa Jones** has outpatient sinus surgery on Wednesday....**Leon Johnson** is back in the hospital in Terre Haute for recurring problems with an infection from his surgery in Chicago ....Continue praying for **Steve Cable, Mike Sutherlin, Bernie Ciota, Alberta Cagle, Eugene Zinn, Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, Phyllis Kirby, Lance & Lane Pepper, Valley Stockton, Mandy Anderson, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebcke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Pat Johnson, Marge Campbell, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, and Irene Fox.**

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

## Lafayette Christian School Needs YOU!

It's **Dutch Apple Pie** time at Lafayette Christian School. With your willing hands, we are able to turn 390 bushels of apples into 7,000 pies in two days! We can use volunteers to fold boxes, peel apples, assemble pies, or work in the freezer trucks on **Monday, October 13 and Tuesday, October 14.** If you are able to come, we welcome you. If not, please remember our process and our school in your prayers. For additional information contact Jayne King at 742-3462 or the school at 447-3052.

## 20 Something's Fall Retreat



**When: October 17-19**  
*Starts at 6:00 on the 17th*  
*Ends at noon on the 19th*

**Where: Rainbow Christian Camp, Converse, Indiana**  
**Speaker: Gilbert Kerrigan**

**Cost: \$25 per person (includes place to stay and meals provided)**  
*If cost is a problem, contact Jason Cochran at 409-4522*

*(continued from Gilbert's front page article:)*

9. The maintenance congregation is concerned with their congregation, its organizations and structure, its constitutions and committees. The mission congregation is concerned with the culture, with understanding how secular people think and what makes them tick. It tries to determine their needs and their points of accessibility to the Gospel.
10. When thinking about growth, the maintenance congregations asks, "How many Lutherans live within a twenty-minute drive of this church?" The mission congregation asks, "How many unchurched people live within a twenty-minute drive of this church?"
11. The maintenance congregation looks at the community and asks, "How can we get these people to support our congregation?" The mission congregation asks, "How can the Church support these people?"
12. The maintenance congregation thinks about how to save their congregation. The mission congregation thinks about how to reach the world.



## It's Girls!



Former Elmwood members now in New Hampshire, **Brandon & Veronika Hombs**, welcomed their new baby girl, **Sasha Angelika** on September 12. She weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Congratulations, Brandon and Veronika! *(Be sure to check out the pictures on the bulletin board of her with big sister, Natalia.)*

Barb Newberry's granddaughter, Jessica and her husband, Derek, are proud to announce the arrival of their first baby, **Mya Grace Dimmick**. She was born September 29 in Jacksonville, Florida. Congratulations great-grandmother and grandparents, Jennifer & Gale Schnaible.

## Congratulations!

A BIG congratulations to **Dinea Kinzer** on her 25 years of service at Purdue University!

## Senior Servant's Schedule

The **Senior Servants** will be cancelled **October 15** in order for them to attend the **Senior Fair**.

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**September 28, 2008**  
*Class: 206 Worship: 322*  
*Contribution: \$9,054*

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## What Is Your Only?

*"I assure you: Anyone who doesn't enter the sheep pen by the door but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't recognize the voice of strangers."*

*Jesus gave them this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them. So Jesus said again, "I assure you: I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes ONLY to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" John 10:1-11, **The Message.***

This is a very familiar passage of scripture. I have read it many times, but a friend shared it with me recently and challenged me to consider just one word...ONLY. It is very clear that Jesus is speaking of himself as the Door and the Good Shepherd. I may be reading into the text here, but I am thinking that the thief refers to Satan. If that is the case, notice that the thief (Satan) comes ONLY to steal and to kill and to destroy. His mission is very clear – our destruction, eternal. He is so good at his job because he has a single focus.

I have joked about my life many times saying that I am a "jack of all trades, master of none." I have introduced myself as a professional plate spinner. As I reflected on this passage in John 10, I was reminded that I might just be offering those descriptions of myself as a cop out. I am convicted that I am not nearly as single minded, as focused, etc. as I need to be. We live in a society that says we need to fill every waking moment with activity. I feel guilty if I ever just sit and reflect or meditate. I want to live "on purpose." I want to make a difference in our world. I want to be Jesus to all of those I come in contact with...especially to those who do not know Him. I am wanting to embrace my "ONLY" and live it out to the fullest! How about you? What is your ONLY? – Lee



*Thanks to everyone for your expressions of concern, cards, prayers, and the beautiful flowers during and after the funeral for Mike's mother. -Mike & Scheryl Gaylor*

*A big thank you to everyone who sent cards, visited, and called during my lengthy hospital stay in Indianapolis. And thanks to those who have brought food since I have been home. Most of all I want to thank ALL who prayed for healing on my behalf. I KNOW that is what pulled me through. -Steve Cable*

*Dear Elmwood Church of Christ:  
Thank you so much for the special blanket for our new daughter, Hannah. We sincerely appreciate the thoughtful gift and the time that was put into making it.  
With gratitude, Joel & Laura Vaught*

## Seth Mullen's Boy Scouts Eagle Project

**Seth Mullen** will be doing his Boy Scouts Eagle Project at the Indiana Veteran's Home on Saturday, October 11. A requirement of all Eagle Projects, Seth has to schedule the work. He is asking for volunteers to help sand and seal the picnic benches on the property of Indiana Veteran's Home in West Lafayette. Please consider volunteering some of your time and energy on **Saturday, October 11**, beginning at 8 AM until the project is done. Lunch will be provided. Any amount of time--even 1 or 2 hours--is greatly appreciated. Also, if you have a belt sander, please bring it to do the sanding. **RSVP to [cmmul4@aol.com](mailto:cmmul4@aol.com) or by phone 463-5681.**



**October 1, 5:50 PM....**Good \$ense Class with Janet Boston

**October 1, 7 PM....**Bible classes

**October 5, 6 PM....**Worship at Elmwood; Finger Food Fellowship to follow

**October 11, 8 AM....**Seth Mullen's Eagle Scout project

**October 17-19....**20 Something's Fall Retreat

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

# 2008 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 42: October 13-19

### God Reshapes Us


#### Jeremiah chapters 17 – 32

God instructed Jeremiah to pluck up, tear down, destroy and overthrow Israel. Only then could He begin to build and plant and bring the Israelites back to being His people. We find this pattern in both the New and the Old Testaments. God took Paul and made him helpless. Then He brought him around to being an outstanding servant for Him. Paul counted it all joy to be God's servant in every circumstance.

Our ultimate example: Jesus, God's own son, left heaven, became a poor human being, was beaten and killed. Then God raised Him up to become the Savior for the world for all time. It is easy for me to be thankful to God for all the things I perceive to be blessings. To thank Him for things I perceive to be wrong or hard or painful for loved ones or for myself is next to impossible. However, I have witnessed wonderful things that have resulted from dreadful situations. My personal challenge is to learn to be patient for God to work His way in all things.

-Doris A. Swensen

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  <b>Staff</b> <b>Ministers</b> Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 <b>Office</b> 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
		



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