



## You Are Loved and Prayed For

As you read through the letters of John you will notice that the elder refers to the letter's recipients as his *dear children*. For the elder this is so much more than a mere title for the members of the church he is writing to. To refer to them as his *dear children* conveys the deep love that he feels for them. He sincerely cares for them and he wants them to know this. He writes compassionate pleas and warnings such as:

- *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin...*
- *Dear children, this is the last hour...*
- *And now, dear children, continue in him...*
- *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.*
- *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*
- *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

Can you feel the love that the elder has for his *dear children*? I imagine that he spent long nights in prayer for them. I'm sure when he was around they were confident of his love and compassion for them. There probably was not a doubt in their minds that he truly meant it when he called them his *dear children*.

I bring all of this up to say that I hope you know you are loved and prayed for. I am going to step out on a limb and speak for the rest of the leadership here by saying that we probably do not tell you enough that we love you and pray for you. That is affirmation that you should be receiving often from the pulpit. I, personally, want to commit to doing a better job of this.

I feel blessed to be a minister of this church. I feel blessed to have you all in my life. You are loved! You are prayed for!

*Please note: I refer to the author of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John as "the elder" not to deny John's authorship, but to simply call him what he calls himself (2<sup>nd</sup> John 1 & 3<sup>rd</sup> John 1).*

*-Gilbert*

## For All That You've Done I Will Thank You

Saint Francis of Assisi grew up the son of a rich cloth merchant in Italy. Surrounded by wealth and power (cloth merchants, especially if they were good, could be very wealthy in the 12<sup>th</sup> century), Francis grew up in the lap of luxury. However, when faced with the realities of a difficult life, Francis could not remain unchanged.

The story goes that while Francis was selling cloth for his father in the marketplace a beggar asked him for a donation. Francis was busy at the time but after he had finished the sale he had been working on, he left his cloth and found the beggar, giving him all the money he had with him.

Before he died he gave away all that he had, renouncing his parentage. His father was enraged with Francis for his charity. He had become penniless-believing strongly that the command to the apostles to "not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts" as they went out, applied to him as well. He founded the order of the Franciscans, monks who most closely resemble the men we think of when we hear the word monk (brown robe, lives at the monastery, has nothing to their name, etc.).

One of St. Francis' most well known sermons is his sermon to the birds. He cautions the birds to not become ungrateful to God for all the things they are given. He reminds the birds (and thus, us) that ingratitude is a sin of inaction- that we must be vigilant that we do not become ungrateful ourselves.

*-Phil*

**Janet Achor, Pete Swank** and **Rose Hunt** had successful surgeries last week.. Janet and Rose are home recuperating and Pete was scheduled to go home on Wednesday....**Peter Tavana's 95-year-old grandfather** has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Doctors will try to control his pain (no other treatment)....Peter's sister, **Mary Tavana**, is seriously ill and rapidly losing weight....**Diann Doty** has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will have surgery on February 10. She asks that we pray for her and her family to have strength to get through this difficult time ...**David Paris**, Kate Kerrigan's father, is doing well after suffering a mini-stroke last week....Continue praying for **Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Annie Crowder**, **Cheri Vaughn**, **Vicki Henke**, **Delores Hill**, **Elizabeth Tinkle**, **Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Ethel Cable** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Agnes Schubert** (*Hedi Devine's mother*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister beginning radiation soon*), **Dick Stout**, **Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters**, **Eileen Richardson**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White**, **Willie Batts**, **Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Jean Stockberger**, **Lance & Lane Pepper**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Margie 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**.



## Congratulations!

A BIG congratulations to **Josh Stafford** on being named the 2009 Valedictorian at McCutcheon High School!

## Snow Servants



The snow servants this week (2/1-7) for light snow removal are **Phil & Katy Travis, 248-229-7904**.

## A Valentine Tea Party



All girls kindergarten-3rd grade are invited to a **tea party** in A-2 on Saturday, **February 14, 4-7 PM**, hosted by Courtney Buss and Beth Miller. The girls are welcome to wear a fancy dress or outfit and bring one doll as a "guest." We will have food, crafts, and games. RSVP by Wednesday, February 11 to Beth Miller (beth.miller05@gmail.com, 260-503-9111) or Courtney Buss (cbuss19@gmail.com, 502-648-0005).

**Our vision:**  
**Knowing Christ,**  
**Making Christ**  
**Known**

## Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 2:00 PM Monday-Friday.

**February 5** ***Economic Stimulus: The Hidden Dangers.*** Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and Congressman Mike Spence discuss the federal government's economic stimulus package and how it will affect families.

**February 6** ***The Pain of Illiteracy.*** John Corcoran and his wife, Kathy, describe his former struggle with illiteracy and how parents can help children who struggle with learning difficulties.

**February 9-10** ***The Search for a Godly Spouse.*** Minister, Alistair Begg, talks to young singles about important characteristics to look for in a future spouse. (Parts 1 & 2)

The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper.** All food items are also welcomed.



**February 1, 2009**  
**Class: 191 Worship: 285**  
**Contribution: \$89,827**

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### Why We Do Leadership Training for Christ...

Looking back on the last ten years, I can see how Leadership Training for Christ has helped me get involved in service and leadership positions. Whether I am at church or school, I try to be as involved as possible, and I try to set a positive example for the people I interact with. The events I participated in over the years still show up in my service today.

At church I occasionally read passages on Sunday nights, a result of doing Bible Reading for LTC. I did the song leading event and now I am part of a rotation that leads singing on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights. My years of participating in Bible Bowl have given me far more background knowledge, helping me contribute more in class.

Andrew, Ben, Patrick and I were involved in a small group which sang at LTC for seven years. We began singing outside of the convention and we made several CD's. We received many donations from the concerts and CD's which we donated to fund a cabin for a camp that services inner city children during the summer.

For the past three years, I have been in charge of compiling the youth group scrapbook. I organize the photos, delegate work, and teach the people who are new to scrapbooking. This year I have decided to take the scrapbook in a new direction. In previous years we have always done a chronological look at youth group (and other church) activities. This year the entries will all be service oriented. We will make a greater effort to cover service works in the scrapbook, and we are planning more service activities with Jesus' example and the scrapbook in mind. Service Challenge is, I believe, the most important event associated with the LTC convention. It is also the most rewarding. A direct correlation to Service Challenge was becoming a counselor at Camp C.U.M.O., a camp for children of inner city Cincinnati, as part of a youth group mission trip. This service focus has given me the opportunity to be involved in servant leadership in school and other extracurricular groups/activities as well, including National Honor Society, International Club, Band, and I was given the opportunity to organize and be the team captain of an Intramural Basketball team.

These are just some of the ways in which my years at LTC have made an impact on who I am and what I do. Most importantly they have given me a strong foundation on which to build my life of service and leadership for Christ in the church and community. I have enjoyed the past ten years and am looking forward to staying active in service and leadership through college and life.

– Josh Stafford

*I asked Josh for permission to reprint these words from his LTC Scholarship Essay. Josh is a great young man, but I felt this might help some parents and students better understand why we do LTC and why all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join in...it's not too late. See Barb Tilley or me, soon!*

– Lee

## Women's Retreat February 27-28 Lisa Crowe, speaking!

The **Women's Retreat** is set for Friday evening, February 27, and Saturday, February 28. This year's retreat will be held here at Elmwood. Our speaker will be **Lisa Crowe**, teaching on "**Lessons from Luke & Acts.**" Cost for the retreat is \$10.00 per person. This will be a very enjoyable retreat for women of all ages, and every woman is encouraged to attend. Scholarships are available for any woman who would like one. Please register this Sunday between services in the Farris foyer by including your name on the sign-up sheet, paying \$10, and selecting which meal you would like for lunch on Saturday. Questions? Contact Terri Miller at 471-1045.



**Lory Barker, 86**, father of **Pam Houlton** and grandfather of **Stephanie Curwick**, died unexpectedly Tuesday, January 27, in Indianapolis. Lory was a longtime member and elder of the Church of Christ in Speedway. His funeral was Saturday. Our deepest sympathies to Pam, Stephanie, and the entire Barker family.

**Save the dates:  
Vacation Bible School  
June 8-12, 6-8 PM**



**February 4, 7 PM...**Bible classes for all  
**February 8, 6 PM...**LIFE Groups meet  
**February 20-22...**Youth Winterfest in Gatlinburg  
**February 27-28...**Women's Retreat at Elmwood,  
Lisa Crowe, speaker  
**April 10-12...**Leadership Training for Christ  
**June 8-12, 6-8 PM...**Vacation Bible School

Read:  
*Psalms 1-21;*  
*Acts 1:1-5:16*

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 8: February 16-22

## A Psalm is a Song

A few weeks ago, Bill and I drove to South Holland Church of Christ (a suburb of Chicago) to hear the Freed-Hardeman University Chorale concert. The director, Gary McKnight, is a friend of ours from our college days at The University of Alabama. We were members at University Church of Christ, which operated a Christian student center. From the group of college students, Gary formed an a cappella choral group. I was fortunate to be part of Gary's group. A couple of times a month, we loaded equipment, tuxes and dresses in an old Greyhound bus and headed to church congregations to sing during their evening worship. Our program consisted of old familiar hymns, a few choral pieces and a section of children's songs. (Of course, *Jesus Loves Me* was one of the songs!) The Freed-Hardeman chorale program was similar. When they got to the children's section, Gary told the congregation that many years ago he observed that an important part of the congregation was being overlooked – the children. So, even today, as he did 30-something years ago, the children were invited to sing with the chorus. Of course, whenever he does this, children aged 2 to 92 sang with great enthusiasm and enjoyment!






People remember children's songs because they are simple and poetic. The psalms are like that; for example,

*"O LORD, our LORD, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"* Psalm 8:1 NIV

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."* Psalm 19:14 NIV

As you read Psalm 1-21, you will recognize many familiar phrases in songs and hymns. These psalms praise God for His grace, His glory, His creation and His law. Read these psalms over and over. Bind them on your hearts. Memorize and repeat these words of praise. And the next time the choral director says it's time for children's songs, you'll be ready no matter how old you are.

–Bill and Carol Bell

 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
 <b>Our Vision:</b> Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

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