



Expectations

Have I come to expect so little? This is a question I have started asking myself lately. But I believe it is a question that should not only be asked of me, but of all of us. *Have we, the church, come to expect so little?*

So often we come to the foot of a mountain in our lives and we seek for ways to climb it. Yet, Jesus tells us that faith does not look for ways to climb mountains. Faith moves mountains. Have we come to expect so little?

How many times have we crossed paths with someone whose past was filled with pure evil and then thought to ourselves, "There is no hope for someone like that?" Yet, in Acts we read of a man who literally drug Christians into prison and killed others for a simple proclamation of faith, and Christ's transforming power turned him into one of the greatest preacher's of the gospel that the world has ever seen. This chief of all sinners is transformed into a servant of Christ. Have we come to expect so little?

I could keep going through examples, but I'll stop there. It seems that Christ's followers have a long history of expecting too little. During what seems to be a troubling time in the life of the disciples Jesus tells them, "*Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father*" (John 14:12). They will do the works Christ has been doing and even greater things, but these are the same disciples that couldn't cast out a demon, feared they were going to drown during a storm, and were totally baffled when Jesus asked them to feed 5,000 people. Had they come to expect so little?

A passage that gives me such great hope comes from the hands of the murderer-turned-preacher, Paul. He writes, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen*" (Eph. 3:20-21). I'm tired of expecting so little. There is a power *at work within us* that is able to do *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*. Isn't that exciting?

-Gilbert

The New School Year is Quickly Approaching

The new school year is less than a month away. The first day of classes at Purdue is August 24th. As we approach the new year there are a few ways that you can partner with the campus ministry!

First, we are looking for more volunteers to be an ADOPTED PARENT. This is a one year commitment, and the primary responsibility is to build a relationship with a Purdue student. This might mean you invite them to lunch after church at a restaurant or your home, you may invite them to do their laundry at your house, you may want to fix them snacks during the school year, especially during finals week!

Secondly, we are having a CLEAN UP DAY at the CSC on August 15th. If you were there last year, it will not be quite so intense as that, but there is still a lot to do! If you would like to help get the CSC in tip-top shape before students return for the semester, this is how you can help!

Finally, during the FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES we always have a full list of activities- one every week day! From a game of wiffle ball, to a cook-out, to a movie night, you are all invited to spend time on campus with the new students! Parking is available behind the CSC.

If you would like to participate in any of these three things, or if you would like more information, please feel free to e-mail me at ptravis@elmwood-church.org, or just find me at church!

~Phil



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Pete Swank spent a few days in the hospital last week after experiencing problems with blood thinner medication. He is home now where he will likely have a lengthy recuperation.... **Diann Doty** has her last chemotherapy treatment on Thursday. It has left her in a very weakened condition....

Betty Farner, mother of Sue Adams, is battling colon and liver cancer....Former Elmwood member, **Bud Darby**, is recuperating from a light stroke. He is in Montgomery,

Alabama....Continue praying for **Annie Crowder, Elaine Crowder, Henry Hunt (now home), Ella McCullough, Christa Phillips, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**



In the military: **Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew), **Brent Kaufman**, and **Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.

Weekly Prayer Focus

August Prayer Focus: Campus Ministry First-time College Students

Leaving home and going to college for the first time is not only a huge change, it's a huge challenge! Pray that God will be with students that we send off, as well as the students that will be arriving in Lafayette this month for their introduction into college life and their first steps to independence. Pray that they will make good choices that honor God and their parents.

You Can Help with Tools for Schools!



There are many in the Lafayette community who have been hit hard with the nation-wide economic situation. Once again Elmwood will be a collection site for Salvation Army's "Tools for Schools." If you would like to help children in the community with school supplies for the

upcoming school year, a box has been placed in the Farris foyer for your donations and will be there until the end of July. Some suggested items: glue sticks, Fiskars scissors (5 in. pointed), zippered pencil packs, 1 inch 3-ring binders, new backpacks, plain pocket folders (no prongs), highlighter markers (yellow), colored pencils (12 count/24 count), solar powered calculators, 8 count large crayons, 8 count regular crayons, Prang oval paints (8 pan), washable markers, notebook filler paper, Pedigree pink erasers, and black, Expo dry erase markers. **You have until the end of this week to bring these items.** Your generosity is much appreciated!



Sunday Night, August 2: Community Block Party

We want to make an impact in our community right? What better way than by inviting them to a cook-out at our building. Come and meet people from our community as we share hot dogs and a good time with them.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** These items are not available at the Food Bank.

E-Newsletter?

We have begun sending our newsletter via e-mail in a pdf format. Sending it this way has already saved the church \$10+ per week! If you opt for e-delivery of the newsletter, let the church office know via e-mail or write your request on your yellow card on Sunday.

July 26, 2009

Class: 171 Worship: 238

Contribution: \$5,926



Camp... Spring Mill & C.U.M.O.



The past two weeks have been busy for us. Two weeks ago we went to Spring Mill Bible Camp where we learned about our "Journey." I knew it was going to be a great week right away when I found a snake stretched out across my cabin floor. Trust me, he wasn't there very long. I had some great guys staying in my cabin. I could tell that many of them were searching. Every night before bed we would get together with them and have a small devo talk, but mostly just talk about anything and everything. One of the better conversations that night was centered around, "What one question would you ask God?" Of course we can always ask God questions but if He were to verbally answer you, what question would you ask? With some of the responses from the campers, I could tell that they were on a fast-paced, spiritual journey that was filled with mystery. The week certainly lived up to those expectations.

After SMBC and a day of rest, we were off again to Cincinnati for Camp CUMO. Just imagine a whole week with around 50 or 60 inner-city campers between the ages of 8 and 12. Take them out of their inner-city environment, put them in an unknown environment like a camp site in the middle of the country (nature even), and you've got yourself an unpredictable week. It was a good week, with a little bit of stress and frustration thrown in there too. There were fights, homesickness, and disobedient behavior, but all of that was expected. The toughest part was at the end when I knew that the kids would be returning to their poisoned environment of the inner-city, and I would be returning back to my "easy" lifestyle.

One thing that I took from these busy two weeks is to enjoy the peaceful moments. Enjoy the moments where you can sit still and enjoy the sound of nature. Enjoy being still, and knowing that He is God. *-Randy*

Women's Ministry News

All Elmwood women are invited to "Ladies' Tea Number Two" this **Saturday afternoon, August 1**. It's not too late to sign up. Call Terri Miller at 471-1045 if you would like to be included. *-Terri Miller*

Senior Servants Are Hosting a Party

The **Senior Servants** are having a special **sundae party** at their regular meeting on **August 5**. Come, join the fun and fellowship at 11:30 AM.



I just want to thank everyone who sent cards (blue and otherwise), e-mailed and prayed for me during my surgery and recluse spider bite. It's so comforting to know I have such a loving family. Thank you all.

-Ginger Maxwell-Spenard

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits after the passing of my sister, Linda Jetton. Linda's death was unexpected, but your outpouring of love and support was not. We are so blessed to be a part of the church family at Elmwood. Sincerely, David & Lorraine Weckerly

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers and for thinking of our family at this difficult time.

-The family of Audrey Merriman



July 29, 11:30 AM...Lunch with Senior Servants at Golden Corral

July 29, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

August 2, 6 PM...Community Block Party with cookout

August 9, 6 PM...Youth Night....our youth group will be presenting reviews of their summer activities

Read:
Esther-Job 12;
1 Corinthians 3-8

2009 Spiritual Adventure


Week 33: August 10-16

As Michelle and I were reading through 1 Corinthians, chapter three stood out to me. I wondered what Paul might say if he wanted to write to us today. I wondered if he would change the second part of verses three and four to, “Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, ‘I follow the Pope’ and another, ‘I follow John Wesley,’ and another, ‘I follow the Campbell’s’ are you not mere men?” Paul chastises the Corinthians for their adherence to a “servant” (verse 5). Why does he? I think there are four reasons for that.

The first is that when we focus on servants rather than Christ, it stymies our spiritual growth. Paul chides the Corinthians for their lack of growth (verses 1-2) which precedes the section on obedience. A second reason is that by focusing on the teachings of a man, it can lead to pride in us (verses 18-21). We think that we are obviously smarter than others because we have the intelligence to know which leader is right. Third, this pride leads to divisions. (My group knows the “right way”. Can’t others see that?) The fourth reason, as a result of the first three reasons, we lose opportunities to worship. Most Christmas Eve’s we attend my in-laws church for midnight mass. When we first started going I let disagreements that I had with the Catholic Church take away from my worship. As years have come and gone, I have finally internalized that the object of the mass is to worship the same God and Jesus that I believe in and worship when I am at Elmwood. Whatever my disagreements, midnight mass is still a chance to worship God. Jesus said, “Follow Me”. Let’s do that with whomever we come into contact. In a world surrounded by spiritual warfare, we as Christians need to be unified with all believers by focusing on God instead of His servants.

-Ed & Michelle Robson

 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.		

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