



The Lord Bless You and Keep You

I have been thinking a lot lately about the the way we close out a worship service together on Sunday mornings. I read an article a while back that was discussing the absence of benedictions in most worship services today. This article really spoke to me.

A benediction is defined as *the utterance or bestowing of a blessing, especially at the end of a religious service*. It was the Lord that said, *"This is how you are to bless..."* That tells me that bestowing blessings upon God's people is an important aspect of ministry.

There are many benedictions in scripture, such as:

- *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."* ~ Numbers 6:23-26
- *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* ~ Romans 15:13
- *"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."* ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

I don't know about you, but those words sound so much better than saying, *"You are now dismissed."* To hear, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace..."*, is so much more encouraging than, *"See you next week."* Don't you agree?

From now on, I hope to leave you with a bestowal of blessings. I may forget from time to time, but I believe this is important. So, until I see you again, *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*
-Gilbert

***God is good...all the time
All the time...God is good***

Tradition

Early in my parents' marriage, they were making my dad's favorite meal: roast beef and mashed potatoes. Before my mom put the roast in the roasting pan, she cut off the end-piece of meat. My dad was curious, so he asked her why she had done that. She said that it was because that is how her mother always did it.

Eventually my mom asked her mom why she cut off the end. My grandma said that was how she had always been taught to cook a roast. My great-grandma was next on the list in this search for an answer to this silly situation. My grandma asked her, "Mother, why did you always cut off the end the roast before cooking it?" She replied, simply, "Because my roasting pan was too small."

Tradition has a strong impact on our lives, and it can be very valuable. At the same time, tradition can sometimes look silly to those who don't understand the purpose of the tradition. I think this story has something to say to all of us. To those of us who cherish traditions, we ought to examine them to make sure that they have a good purpose. To those of us who like to see changes within our traditions, we must be careful to push for change only on vital matters. Those who keep that tradition often do so for a very important reason (unlike the story).

Cutting the end off the roast isn't technically correct, but then, it isn't particularly harmful either. **-Phil**

Adult Education Announcement

The Stone-Campbell Movement and its Heirs - a special 7-week, Wednesday night class to begin this month.

Bob Waltz will be teaching a new class on *restoration History* in room A-2 (the fellowship room) beginning **March 11**. Other regular Wednesday night classes will continue as usual, but this will be another elective class that adults may want to choose to attend. Here's Bob's preview of the course:

Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address of the Christian Association was drafted in 1809, a full two centuries of history has passed since. This brief seven-week class will look at the movement and its heirs, e.g., the Churches of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, and the Christian Churches. A review of the Declaration and Address, some of the key personalities, and discussions of critical doctrinal issues in the course of our common history will be presented for discussion and thought. If you like stories, history, and a thoughtful discussion on how Churches of Christ came to be as a movement, maybe even sometimes enjoy a good laugh, then join us for this brief study on Wednesday nights.

-Joe Ruhl

Wedding Shower for Courtney & Craig

This **Sunday, March 15, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM**, Betty Brown and hostesses, Mindy Hart and Vicky Martin, will host a wedding shower for **Courtney Buss and Craig Hodges** at the home of Betty and Chuck, 3530 E. 200 N., Lafayette. Contributions for a group gift may be given to Betty, Mindy and/or Vicky. Come and extend your congratulations and best wishes to the newly-weds-to-be. Their wedding will be April 4 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Diann Doty had a port surgically implanted for her chemo treatments on Wednesday. Her chemotherapy will begin on Thursday, March 19....**Jan Lucas** continues her radiation treatments this week and 3 more next week. She'll have surgery soon to remove her right kidney (a mass found)....**Peter Tavana** is experiencing problems with diverticulitis....**David Brutans**, son-in-law of Shirley Farmer, had surgery on Wednesday for colon cancer....**Betty Farner**, Sue Adams' mother, is in Home Hospital with complications from diverticulitis....**Dick Stout**, former Elmwood member, is receiving hospice care...Marsha Moore's father, **Charles Carter**, has been diagnosed with stomach cancer....Jim Moore's father, **Charles**, is in the hospital in Texas with an infection and kidney problems....Continue praying for the following people: **Justin Thomas, Ray Peden, Robert Ruckh, Pete Swank, Sheila Flagherty Stafford** (*John Stafford's sister-in-law, hospitalized for premature labor*), **Mary Tavana, Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Cherie Hanson, Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Willie Batts, Ethel Cable & Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Margie Campbell, Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, and Minnie Scott.**



Our Sympathies....

Joe Henn, grandfather of Peter Tavana, died Tuesday, March 10, in Michigan. His funeral will be Friday in Michigan. Our sympathies to Peter and his family.



I would like to thank everyone for the care and concern given me over the past several weeks. Thank you for the visits and the cards and the prayers. I am doing better, and hope to be back with you sometime soon.
Love, Ethel Cable

Dear Elmwood Church,

Thank you all so very much for your prayers and kindnesses shown to us. The beautiful flowers, your attendance at the visitation and mother's funeral, the food you brought, the calls, cards, and expressions of condolences all spoke of our Father's love in you and have been a great comfort to me and my family.

Mother enjoyed the cards from the Senior Servants and others sent so faithfully during her illness. We will indeed miss Mother's presence, but give thanks for the blessing she was and that she accepted Jesus as her Savior many years ago. My love to you all.

-Teri Richardson

Snow Servants



The snow servant this week is **Peter Tavana, 474-6519**. Call him for light snow removal.

March 1, 2009

Class: 143 Worship: 238

Contribution: \$8,165

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LTC – Last Call for Sign Up!

Okay, a quick look at the Dates & Deadlines on the MWLTC Website tells us that if you want to participate in LTC, you need to let us know by Sunday for sure! **STUDENTS:** The registration on the web will shut down on Monday, so we have to have your stuff, NOW. **OBSERVERS:** (this is anyone who is not a student participant...all ages!) If you have not already signed up to attend the convention on Easter weekend, you need to do that now. You can register at the convention, it just takes longer and you risk missing our group's performance, if you are close to the time.

Practices began on Wednesday night (the 11th) but you can still be a part. Please read the note from Lynae that I have included below.

“Hi everyone! Let’s get started on puppets Wednesday night at church at 7:00. Even if you haven’t signed up for puppets, please come and check it out! We’ll teach you how to make a puppet talk and start picking out scripts. (If you’re a shy person about getting up in front of people, puppets are the best thing! You stand behind a curtain and no one can see you! Sometimes we’ve had kids who didn’t even say anything because they were the stage crew.) It’s a lot of fun!

Also, I encourage you all to be in singing! We can have a great large group with you all, what more fun than to sing praises to our King! Rachel has signed up for Live Modern Drama, so she needs some additional actors. We’ll plan for this Sunday afternoon after church. I’ll round up some food for you and we’ll work on puppets, singing, bulletin boards and whatever else we can work on to get ready! LTC is around the corner! So, we’ve got lots of fun to get done beforehand! If parents would like to help out that would be great!

Even if you haven’t signed up for LTC, come and join us, talk with us about what you can do, and we’ll get you started in the right direction! Can’t wait to see you all on Wednesday nights at 7:00!” -Lynae Stafford

The theme for MWLTC 2009 is **Light - Life - Word**. This theme is based on the **Gospel of John**. The 2009 convention is Easter weekend, which is **April 10-12, 2009**. LTC has become a very important part of the life of the young people in this church family...and the rest of the church, too. I pray all of you will find a way to be involved at some level. If you would like to help with the students, let Barb, Lynae, Carol or me know. If you have any questions, please let me know. -Lee

Offsite Communion Stewards Needed:



This is an opportunity to meet some of our members in a one-on-one setting as you deliver communion to their homes. You can serve with a commitment of one month or on an as-need basis. Several stewards are needed to serve on a rotating basis. Elmwood has an increasing number of shut-ins, and this is an essential service to our members. Both men and women are needed for this service. Several communion travel kits are available for use and the elements will be provided. Contact David Weckerly (765-564-4155) if you are interested in this service opportunity, or use a yellow attendance card for your message.

-David Weckerly

Men’s Breakfast, March 21



The men will enjoy breakfast together on **Saturday, March 21, 7:43-8:59 AM**, in the fellowship room (A-2). Indicate on your yellow card on Sunday if you plan to attend. After breakfast there will be time to pray together.

Baby Shower for the Welters, March 29

A baby shower is being planned for **Heaven & Matt Welters** on **Sunday afternoon, March 29, from 2:00 until 3:30**, at the Boyds’ home, 3528 Indianbrook Dr., Lafayette. You may give money for a group gift to hostesses, Gina, Mindy Hart, or Katy Travis. Gift ideas? Call Mindy.



March 11, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
March 15, 2-4 PM....Wedding shower for **Courtney Buss & Craig Hodges** at Betty & Chuck Brown’s home
March 15, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
March 29, 2:00-3:30....Baby shower for Heaven & Matt Welters, Boyds’ home
April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ

Read:
Deuteronomy 14-30;
Acts 21:17-26:32

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 12: March 23-29






You Almost Persuade Me

After reading Acts 21:17 – 26:32, we thought a lot about Paul’s travels and what it must have been like for him. Paul knew what awaited him in Jerusalem and that it would not be an easy road. He knew he would certainly endure suffering at the hands of the Jews, but he was determined to go anyway and spread the word of the Lord. His perseverance was certainly exemplified in these passages.

Once Paul reached Jerusalem, chaos quickly ensued and Paul was ordered into custody. He was forced to defend himself and his belief in Christ repeatedly over a two year period. Can you imagine facing this kind of uncertainty for such a long period of time? It was interesting that he knew how to work the system to repeatedly delay, move his trial out of Jerusalem, and finally appeal to Caesar himself. Even today, Christians and our beliefs are often under attack by nonbelievers and even politicians. Prayers are no longer allowed in school, religious symbols are being banned from public lands, and there was even a swarm of controversy over President Obama’s choice to have prayer and to use the bible during his inauguration. We should all aspire to have the conviction of Paul in such matters. Jesus said “... he who rejects me rejects him who sent me” (Luke 10:16 NIV). No one would think Paul rejected Jesus, but can the same be said of us?

During Paul’s defense before Festus and Agrippa, Festus thought Paul was crazy, but Paul sensed Agrippa believed what he was saying. Agrippa asked, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” I think this response is one people have been giving for thousands of years and are still giving. They must be thinking: “How can I possibly believe His word?” or “If I become a Christian, won’t I have to give up the things in life I really enjoy?” Paul came out the winner here because he never gave up that fight, and remained loyal to his Savior and His word.

-Kristi and Doug Smith

 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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