

Riverside Waterline

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2009

May Sermons:

- May 3 — Luke 7:41-43
- May 10 — Luke 8:5-15
- May 17 — Youth Sunday
- May 24 — Luke 11:5-8
- May 31 — Luke 12:16-21

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Thoughts from Pastor Dan

A Healthy Fear of God

The fear of God has always been a tricky theological subject for me. What is a healthy understanding of the fear of God? I firmly believe that we must have a fear of God. This fear, though, seems to result in reverence and awe as opposed to being terrified of punishment. The struggle reminds me of the conversation in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* that the beavers are having with the children. The children are asking about Aslan (the God figure in the book) and ask whether he is safe. The beaver responds, "no, he's not safe, but he is good." The fear prompted is a healthy fear that is not necessarily punishment based, but power based. A healthy fear of God stems from an understanding that humans exist according to

God's will and if God chose to terminate our entire existence at any time, God could. The object of our fear should not be pain or hurt, but the overwhelming potency of God's being.

I believe fear is too often misappropriated, especially in evangelism. When I was in undergrad, I used to make a regular practice of approaching strangers and asking them to participate in a "spiritual interest survey." If they agreed to participate, my first question was, "if you died today, would you go to heaven or hell?" Now my intentions were good, but my approach was less than admirable. My tactic was one of fear. I attempted to convince others to become Christians to avoid the perils of hell.

While this may indeed be a wonderful benefit of believing in Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior, it is by no means the only or even the most important benefit. An eternal relationship with the awesome and loving God is reason enough. There is little doubt that those strangers that I encountered felt no love from me. I did not help them to understand a healthy fear of a good and loving God, but attempted to convince them of the importance of escaping their ever present movement towards eternal damnation.

The lesson is not simply to fear God, but to rightly fear the true God. The primary difference is that an unhealthy fear of God leads to timidity and legalism while a healthy fear of God leads to boldness and freedom.

Promiseland Chatter

In the month of May, we begin our Promiseland Kids mission project through World Vision. Each Sunday morning during Children's Church, they will be given the opportunity to share their offerings towards purchasing one goat, two chickens, and five ducks for a family in need. Over the past year, Promiseland Discovery Hour classes have learned about giving a tenth of

their wealth back to God. We think it is important to give them a way to practice what they have been learning and to experience the joy of giving to others. Make sure your check out their giving progress on the poster located in the Promiseland Hallway.

This month our 3-5 year old Discovery Hour class will dis-

cover they can help others and tell them about Jesus, just like the first church did. They will also see the amazing works God did in the early church through stories of Saul's conversion, Peter's escape from prison and Barnabas the Encourager.

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"So maybe as a woman I'm not always a daisy-maybe instead we're all like those rows of trees that a farmer plants to protect the fields-our purpose is to be strong, to protect, to break up the harsh elements for those we surround, to work hard so that the seeds planted can grow up tall and strong, and most of all, to stand firm in the knowledge that God made us just the way he meant to."

Becky Wellner



Women's Spring Luncheon 2009

Good Food + Good Friends = Good Times



Doing dishes after the women's spring luncheon in Riverside's new kitchen.

Women's Ministry

Bloom Where You're Planted: The 2009 Riverside Ladies Luncheon By Amber Stanley

Anybody feeling a little parched? Did you know God has called you not only to have life, but to have it abundantly (John 10:10 NIV)? He wants you to bloom, Baby! That was the theme of this year's Riverside women's luncheon, and it was full of "budding" moments (No more lame puns - I promise!). We talked, we laughed, we ate, we shared, we ate some more... definitely my idea of a good time. Here's what the women of Riverside taught me that Saturday afternoon:

- Good food + Good friends = Good times
- True community is founded on transparency.
- If you want to win a door prize, you have to be on time!
- Sometimes our plans are **very** different than God's, but His are always better.
- Tiny Cupcakes on a stick = BIG fun
- Blooming where you're planted is rarely easy and

always worth it.

- If Polly Timmerman asks you to be in a skit, just know you may never live it down. You may also have to wear a mullet.
- You're never alone in your struggles - never.

I want to leave you with a quote from one of our lunch-

eon speakers, Becky Wellner, the Youth Director at Riverside. If you weren't able to attend, I think it expertly sums up the heart of our theme. If you were able to attend, I bet it makes you cry all over again. God bless you, ladies!

"So maybe as a woman I'm not always a daisy-maybe instead we're all like those rows of trees that a farmer plants to protect the fields-our purpose is to be strong, to protect, to break up the harsh elements for those we surround, to work hard so that the seeds planted can grow up tall and strong, and most of all, to stand firm in the knowledge that God made us just the way he meant to."

Summer Bible Study

Our summer Bible study begins Wednesday, May 20th @ 6:30. We will be studying Believing God by Beth Moore.

"Originating from a concept introduced in Isaiah 43:10, Believing God examines what it means to believe God rather than only believe **in Him**. Participants study the lives of Abraham and others from Hebrews 11 as examples of people who believed God. This study parallels a personal journey Beth took in coming to understand what it means to believe God." We will meet at the home of Dar Muehlhausen.

Book Club

The Shack, written by Wm. Paul Young, follows Mackenzie Allen Philips after the abduction of his daughter. After four years, Mack gets a note inviting him to return to the place of his daughter's crime scene -- a note presumably written by God. What kind of answers does Mack get when he meets God in the wilderness? What kind of comfort can he find in a God who allows bad

things to happen? Come and join the discussion of a controversial book Wednesday, June 3rd @ 6:30 at Dar Muehlhausen's home.

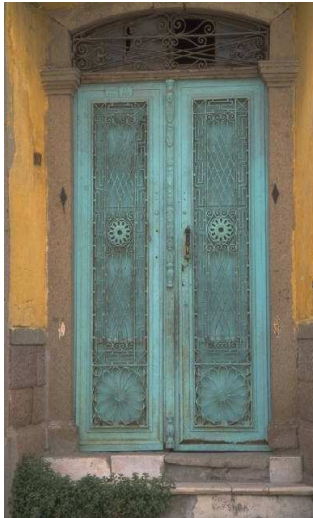
In Tilly, by Frank Peretti, "Kathy and Dan Ross are just like any other young couple. No one would ever imagine what secrets lie buried in their souls until Kathy is captivated by a simple name on a tiny gravestone that would change their lives forever." A short read, this book promises to have a long impact on your life. Join with other women as we discuss this book Wednesday, July 15th @ 6:30 in the home of Nancy Umbeck.

Riverside Women's Retreat

Ladies, we have an opportunity to attend a national women's conference, "Women of Faith", at the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Riverside's Women's Ministry is planning a three day retreat and we want you to attend! This retreat is time away for inspiration, refreshment, instruction, and fellowship. We cherish such days because the time away can help us put the "things" of our lives into perspective - into eternal perspective.

We will be leaving Friday, August 7 and returning on Sunday, August 9. Currently we have 26 tickets @ \$55 each for the conference. Our hotel reservations are at the Comfort Inn and Suites West, the room rate is \$77 a night (inc. tax) for two queen size beds per room. They will allow four people to a room. Reservations will be accepted on a first come basis. Come to our Riverside office if you want to participate in a payment plan, Babby will be able to assist you. For more information on the conference visit the Women of Faith website www.womenoffaith.com, or contact Nancy Umbeck at numbeck@yahoo.com.

Youth Ministry



“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”
Matthew 7:7,8 (NLT)

April started off with a bang as I took three of our girls to The Awakening in Frankfort, IN. If you have ever heard of The Great Banquet, The Awakening is the high school version. In a nutshell, it's a three day experience with Jesus. There's a little mystery surrounding it because it's one of those things you just have to go to to understand what it's all about. Otherwise, if it was all laid out on the table beforehand, you wouldn't be able to drag a teenager to it. That's pretty much what happened with our girls. None of them were overjoyed about giving up the last weekend of their spring break to go to a retreat they knew nothing about, except that I wanted them to go. But by Sunday they were all changed, all crying, and had all encountered Jesus in a big way. One of the girls said they hadn't FELT God so close in a really long

time. Another explained how she had been able to forgive a family member that had been so hurtful she didn't know how to let it go. Still another said she was going to go back to school and love people she had a hard time loving, and that she planned to tell her family how much she cared about them, even when she doesn't show it. Don't get me wrong, they all wondered what I had gotten them into on the first night when their cell phones had to be shut off for the remainder of the weekend and they weren't allowed to wear a watch-but all of this was so that the noise of the world could be left behind, even just for a moment, so that they could hear Jesus calling their name. Sunday afternoon our girls were truly able to say to The Awakening community that they were thankful that they got to experience what God had for them out in

the middle of no where, in Frankfort, IN. It definitely wasn't a breezy weekend. Satan came out in full force to try to stop all the girls from hearing what God wanted to speak into their lives-there was a gal there that didn't want anything to do with anyone and let us all know it right off the bat, and of course she was assigned a seat right next to one of our girls. But even in that situation God was good and began to soften her heart, little by little. She didn't leave praising Jesus but she had stopped cursing him!!! All this to say that this weekend blessed my soul to see our girls loving and getting loved on my our awesome friend, JESUS!!!!

The following week we got caught up with everyone on Wednesday-there had been some flooding in the basement so we got the youth room put back

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Getting to Know the Mills

What your names and names and ages of your children?

Everette & Megan & Jonathan 19 months

What are your occupations?

Everette works from home for a company based out of New Jersey, they work with, but not for, the post office. He also has several other side ventures in the computer tech realm. Megan has a degree in Social Studies Education, but is currently a stay-at-home mom, and photographer.

What brought you to West Lafayette / Lafayette?

Everette was born in Alabama but moved to West Lafayette

when he was two, so for all practical purposes he was raised in West Lafayette, moved to Purdue, then fell in love with a younger student (Megan), put aside his dreams of traveling the country, and found a job in West Lafayette so he could marry and be near his one true love.

Megan grew up in Battle Ground (one could consider this a suburb or Lafayette, if Lafayette had suburbs). She and Everette actually went to the same high school at the same time, but never crossed paths. She fell in love with Everette when she was a junior at Purdue, told him she would follow him anywhere, then

once she married him promptly demanded that he stay in Lafayette to be close to family. No seriously, there have been several times when Everette's jobs threatened to move us away, but God has thus far willed us to be here. We could tell you story after story of God working in a mighty way.

What brought you to Riverside? How long have you been here?

We came to Riverside after we graduated and left our College church. We have stuck it out through thick and thin. We have been here for six years.

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Youth Ministry cont.



Flamingo Flocking...what's that???

together and enjoyed some pizza while we watched Gospel Journey Maui. Our topic was relationship vs religion and they actually really surprised me when they said they didn't think of religion as a negative word. So maybe it's outgrowing the idea of rituals and traditions that don't necessarily bring us closer in our friendship with the Lord-even so we got to talk about how important it is that we have a relationship, that's a 2-way thing, with Jesus and what that looks like at home and school. That has really been the underlying challenge all year-to make our faith known by how we live our lives out in front of our friends and family.

One Saturday, River and I went to the Jeff track meet (little chilly, not gonna lie) and watched one of our gals run

the 100 meter hurdles-she was seriously awesome!!!! Then we headed over to the Gravitt's house with the JH to start prepping our youth vegetable garden!! It was really hard work but I just know the fruits of our labor will be magnificent. I learned that what we planted started way back in the WW era where the government asked families to plant gardens in their backyards so that farmers would be free to go fight-they called them Victory Gardens and Americans have been planting backyard gardens ever since. Hopefully we will produce enough food to take to one of the shelters downtown so they can distribute it to families that can't afford fresh vegetables.

Our big project this month was raising funds for our mission trips this summer. Flamingo

flocking has been a huge success so far!! We have raised nearly \$850 and the offers of open lawns that need some lovin' are still rolling in. It has actually been a great time to get the students one-one-one as well. We've been moving birds almost every-day and so I've been grabbing different students to join me so I can have some deeper conversations about their lives. It has been awesome and difficult all at once-the students seem to all have spring fever-they're tired of school, teachers, parents, life, etc...so I've really been challenged to pray for them daily that they would just rest in Jesus, not give up on school and parents, and look forward to what God has in store for them in the spiritual realm!!

Getting to Know the Mills, cont.

What do you do for fun?

Nothing, we are not fun people. We spend a lot of time with family, and working in our yard. We love all things water, Everette is especially passionate

about sailing. Megan enjoys it but is rather unskilled at boat maneuvering. Megan loves the beach, Everette loves the lake.



Everette, Jonathan and Megan Mills

What is a fun fact or memory about you?

When we were in college, and Megan was hopelessly in love with Everette, but Everette was still contemplating his feelings for her, we went to Indy to a Third Day concert with several other friends. Everette kindly offered his van to drive us all down. During the concert, Megan was struck with a bad case of influenza. She put on a happy face so as not to look weak in front of her one true love and suffered through the concert. Relieved to be back in the van headed home, her worst fears were realized. Everyone stopped for food on the way home, and the smell

pushed her over the edge. Megan threw up in the trash can in the backseat of Everette's van, then proceeded to hold it on her lap all the way home. Megan went home certain she had blown it forever, but little did she know that when she returned the heavily bleached and sparkling clean trash can he was so impressed. He knew he was going to marry that girl. Thus our happy ever after. True story, more or less.

Promiseland Chatter, cont.

Our K-3rd grade Discovery Hour class will have the opportunity to discover five things that friends of Jesus do:

1. They tell others about Jesus (Grace)
2. They help others (Gifts)
3. They use their money in good ways (Good Stewardship)
4. They learn about Jesus (Growth)

5. They love each other and celebrate together (Group)

In each lesson, children will learn about and practice "doing" one of the 5 G's.

During the month of May, the 4th and 5th grade Discovery Hour class will learn that believers are the light of the world. If they are following Jesus, they have His light inside

of them and need to shine their light in our dark world so others will come to know God. Each week kids will learn that in order to shine, they must overcome obstacles that prevent them from shining.

"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."

Ephesians 5:8-9 (NLT)

Thank You

Dear Friends at Riverside Covenant Church,

Thank you so much for your February support gift. It is so encouraging to know that your love is evident by your gift. To have you stand beside us is beyond measure. Spring is always a very busy time for us. Although there are huge mountains of snow all around us, we know that the evidence of

spring is under it. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

God Bless You,
Pastor Terry and Teresa Allen
Elim, Alaska

Dear Friends at Riverside Covenant Church,

You folks "ROCK"! Thank you so much for your financial sup-

port, gift boxes and especially your love shown toward us. What an awesome God we serve. Praise Him as we do for every good gift.

And...please pray that spring will arrive soon. We are very tired of snow, snow, snow...

Pastor Terry & Teresa Allen
Elim, Alaska

Community News

National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 7th millions of Americans will join together to pray for our nation and its leaders. Local events that day include an outdoor noontime observance at the Riehle Plaza in downtown Lafayette at 12:10 p.m. and a city-wide night of worship at the Long Center in downtown Lafayette from 7-8:30 p.m.

The Unseen City A Self-Guided Tour

On Friday, May 14, 4:30-8 p.m. you can explore unfinished properties, apartments, churches, gardens, interesting architectural details and hidden homes. Tour starts at Central Presbyterian Church, 31 N. 7th

Street. Park in their lots. Tour is sponsored by the Friends of Downtown. Tickets are \$5. Contact Wabash Valley Trust at 420-0268.

Benefit Dinner and Auction for Laura Rayman Family

Jeremie Rayman recently lost his wife Laura after a long battle with leukemia and many other health problems. Jeremie is now left to raise their two-year-old son Emmitt. Most of his family does not live in this area. He is employed by Tippecanoe School Corporation, but he has his own health problems and extensive medical bills. A benefit dinner and auction will be held on Friday, May 22 in Wolcott. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for

children. Please see Lisa Harker to purchase a ticket or make a donation.

Focus on the Family Garage Sale

The date set for the Focus on the Family Garage Sale is **Saturday, June 13**. As you do your spring cleaning, keep the garage sale in mind and save all your treasures to donate. You may drop off your items at 906 Northwestern Ave. starting June 1st. If you can't wait until that date or if you have any questions, contact Nancy Umbeck (765-497-9270).



National Day of Prayer-Thursday, May 7

Prayer...America's Hope

Working together to help people discover Christ and develop a growing relationship with Him.

RIVERSIDE
COVENANT
CHURCH

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www.rcovenant.org

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Birthdays

2 Mark Kelley
3 River Wellner
8 Catherine Fassnacht
8 Kaylee Metcalf
10 Miranda Nelson
10 Jonah Stanley
12 Meleah Delisle
14 Erin Rush
16 Lisa Harker
16 Caleb Johnson
17 Karen Itin
18 Nancy Umbeck
19 Christine Berkesch
21 Cathy Tanner
24 Jay Morgan
27 Jesse Stout
28 Lynn Fisher
28 Steve Johnson
29 Lanie Nelson
29 Luci Keazer
30 Iris Clark

Anniversaries

10 Harold & Denise Smith
16 Jeff & Emily Farley
18 Carol & David Kuebler
21 Tim & Lindsey Madden
26 Jerry & Cathy Tanner

May Schedule of Events:

- ☞ Sundays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 - Discovery Hour @ 9 a.m.
 - Worship @ 10:15 a.m.
 - Jr. High meets @ 3-4:30 p.m.
 - Sr. High meets @ 6:30-8 p.m.
- ☞ Sunday, May 3, after the service — Carry-in Lunch and Kitchen Shower
- ☞ Sunday, May 10 — Mother's Day
- ☞ Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. — Staff Meeting
- ☞ Mondays, May 4, 11, & 18 — Men's Bible Study @ Riverside, 7 p.m.
- ☞ Monday, May 25 — Memorial Day, Office closed
- ☞ Tuesday, May 12 — Leadership Team meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- ☞ Wednesdays, May 20, & 27 — Women's "Believing God" Bible Study @ Dar Muehlhausen's, 6:30 p.m.
- ☞ Thursdays, May 7, 14, & 21 — Men's Bible Study @ Riverside, 6:30 a.m.
- ☞ Thursday, May 7 — National Day of Prayer
 - Outdoor noonday observance at Riehle Plaza at 12:10 p.m.
 - City-wide night of worship at the Long Center, 7-8:30 p.m.

Riverside
COVENANT CHURCH

