

Thoughts From Pastor Dan

What is time?

A few weeks ago when I was in Chicago for our conference's annual meeting I spent some time talking with a friend of mine who is a pastor in Chicago. Her congregation has been sharing their facility with a Hispanic congregation and recently began conducting events to blend the two congregations together. She said that the experience has been wonderful for both congregations, but that it has revealed some interesting cultural differences. One such difference revolves around time. The Hispanic congregation has a very different understanding of time than my friend's primarily Anglo congregation. For instance, the Hispanic congregation is less concerned with preciseness with respect to time. If they schedule an event at 2pm in the afternoon that simply means that the event will start somewhere near 2pm. Anglos generally understand such organizing times as the exact time the event is to begin. There is a fundamental difference in how time is understood in different cultures.

A professor I had in seminary used to say it this way: is time something you fill up or is time something you experience? Often in our Western culture we value precision and efficiency above all other values. We thus focus in on days, minutes, hours and even seconds. We speak of making efficient use of our time

and by that we often mean that we need to adequately fill the open spaces on our calendar with stuff. This is not necessarily bad. In many ways it has contributed to our nation's economic successes and general societal progress. An overemphasis on the consumption of time, though, is contrary to the biblical understanding of time.

The words "minute" and "second" are not found anywhere in the Bible. Neither are the words "calendar" nor the word "clock" used in the Bible. The very idea of measuring time with precision was foreign to the ancient oriental mind. We often find in the Bible that exactness was not particularly important in dating events at all. In the Bible an hour might refer to an instant, to 45 minutes, an hour, an hour and a quarter, a period of three hours, a day, or even a season.

Biblical time is much more focused on seasons and rhythms. For instance, the days of the week were not named like our Sunday, Monday, etc., but were numbered except for the seventh day, which was known as the Sabbath. This facilitated a weekly progression towards the climactic Sabbath day. There were not individual disconnected days, but each week was a movement towards the next Sabbath. Their days functioned this way too. Each day was a movement from light to dark and from dark to

light, as opposed to hour to hour or minute to minute as measured by a clock.

How do you treat time? Is it yours to be consumed? Is it a gift to be relished? Does your detailed and scheduled life leave room to experience time? Does your planning leave room for the Holy Spirit to turn a 5 minute conversation into a 45 time of sharing with a friend? Is play, leisure, rest, or stopping to smell



the flowers a waste of time to you? Do you take pride in working a lot? Do you make yourself busy with doing unimportant things in order to avoid the hard work of doing the important things? Do you schedule God into your time or do you schedule your life into God's time?

Time does not rush. Time does not speed up. An hour is always 60 minutes. A day is always 24 hours. How will you experience your next hour? Your next day? Your life?

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Getting to Know the Hensons



Susan & Stephen Henson

What are your full names and names of your children?

Stephen L. Henson
Susan Henson
Kate Owen
Rebecca Wellner
Rachael Henson

What are your occupation(s)?

Stephen -ENT, Head and Neck Surgeon
Susan – RN, pre-Lafayette Mother, Wife and Nana

What brought you to West Lafayette / Lafayette?

Stephen came to practice at Arnett Clinic Lafayette was the closest place to Cincinnati to practice interviewing and we loved it and have been here 30 great years.

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

When Becky accepted the position as youth Director, we started coming.

What do you do for fun?

Stephen enjoys fishing, riding horses and golf. Susan enjoys photography, gardening and reading. We both love to travel and we enjoy being with our two grandsons.

What is a fun fact or memory about you?

Best vacations were a photography class in Tuscany and seeing tigers in the wild in India.

Getting to Know the Woods



Beth & David Wood

What are your full names and names and ages of your children?

David Warren Wood
Aaron 27 and Cara 23

Mary “Beth” Wood
Chad 32 and Shawna 27
Chad’s wife is Sarah.

What are your occupations?

David is a teacher and the boys’ basketball coach at West Lafayette Junior-Senior High School. Beth is a Special Ed teacher at Benton Central Junior-Senior High School

What brought you to West Lafayette / Lafayette?

I came to be on Gene Keady’s staff at Purdue in 1986. I left and then came back to take my current job. Beth grew up in Benton County and worked at Purdue for 20 years before taking her current job.

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

We were told about the church by Lane and Anne Custer, and our new neighbor, Lori Nolte. We have been attending since last fall.

What do you do for fun?

I play golf, watch TV, and solve puzzles like Sudoku, cross-

words, and Cryptoquotes. Beth loves to work in the yard and shop. We both love to play with our dog, Jaxy.

What is a fun fact or memory about you?

I have been called the “big black man with the little white dog” in our neighborhood. We have a Maltese that I walk a lot!

Our best vacation was our trip to Palm Desert, CA one spring break. Beth and I were completely surrounded by mountains and beauty!

Riverside Block Party

This event is designed as an outreach to our neighborhood and to our broader community. Our goal is to provide good food and a range of fun events and activities for children up through Purdue students. Everything is free. The activities and events will include a bounce house, face

painting, field games, a dunk tank, and a 3-3 basketball tournament. The food will include cotton candy, snow cones, hamburgers, veggie burgers, salads, and soda pop.

In early August we will begin recruiting people to run and operate the various events and

machines (e.g., the snow cone machine). In the mean time, if you have an idea for an event or activity to include or an idea on how to improve the event in any way or if you wish to help with the planning, please contact Dave Timmerman – dtimmerman@rcovenant.org.

Youth Ministry

The month of May was a month of preparation—for the youth service, for the end of school, and for our upcoming mission trips! We hoped the service would be an invitation for people to open up, get real with one another, and come to Jesus for breakthrough kind of love. Besides working hard on that, we also worked very hard at reaching our goal for the upcoming JH mission trip! We shoveled mulch for a single mom, and of course, the flamingos are still a huge hit. They were even invited to Melissa and William's wedding this month and donned formal attire for the occasion! During the first Discovery hour of the month we talked about judging others and what God thinks about judgment. We watched Susan Boyle on Britain's Got Talent and were stunned by how the appearance didn't match the performance. It was a huge reminder that God makes us all unique and that we need to love people first—not judge—and that we'll reap huge rewards by being like Jesus in this area of our lives.

The following weekend we led the congregation in worship—IT WAS SO FUN!! The youth really led the service and I just can't get over how awesome they were! We had some pretty rockin' music—Abby sang and Thomas jammed on the electric guitar. Then Mark Kirgiss shared his heart for kids through working with Young Life. Zhanna prayed for us in her beautiful Russian accent, then we had what was probably the fastest offering ever as Brandon ran up and down the aisles!! It was pretty amusing;) Mark read from Romans 12 and I would go so far as to say he was eloquent!!! Next came Lacey's moment to share her testimony. As our only senior she kind of didn't have a choice but to speak, but she did a fantastic job displaying what God has done in her life—even through all her tears she was amazing. It really reminded me of how much pain kids carry around and how they are desperate for something

real to hold onto. So next came our Cardboard Testimonies, where 25 people shared intimate things about their lives and how Jesus has never left them. It was so cool—everyone was crying!! Ryan read the entire chapter of Romans 12 from The Message and reiterated the importance of being one in body, mind, and spirit as a congregation, and then we got to do some serious singing to wrap up our morning.

The following week we had our Wednesday meeting in the utility room!! Weird, yes, did it kind of freak the students out at first, yes, but did it make a point? Yep! We talked about Elijah and listening to God. He learned a lesson after going up against some crazy Baal priests while hiding out in a cave (hence the dark, drippy utility room) that God doesn't always speak to us in obvious ways. For Elijah, God wasn't in a crazy windstorm (big fan), God wasn't in an earthquake (pop rocks), God wasn't in fire (Atomic Fireballs) but He WAS in a gentle whisper (Sierra Mist). It was pretty cool to then discuss how they are supposed to hear God's voice in their lives. On Sunday we had a BIG change of pace from the utility room to a lovely donor's house where we spread over 20 cubic yards of mulch. In case you were wondering that's A TON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Ryan gathered some friends to help out the next day to finish up the other half—God is so good, he continually provides for us in so many ways it's hard to take it all in.

Another attempt to throw the kids off and get them thinking was the last Wednesday of the month. I tried something new and learned a few things—I wanted to give the students a tangible something while teaching about when Jesus called his first disciples and making fishers of men. So I got a baby pool and some sardines so that they could stand in the water,

smell the fishiness that the disciples smelled every day of their lives, and then I was going to make them throw the fish at each other. Well—sardines don't always come whole—just an FYI. We had these gross chunks of fish floating in the kiddie pool that had been soaking in Louisiana Hot Sauce. I learned I must read labels more carefully!! Friday night the JH, River, and I watched "Marley and Me" and pigged out on chocolate that Melissa and William brought us from Maui as a last hurrah for Gospel Journey Maui—they were DELICIOUS!!!! And then Sunday we learned about Pentecost, which most of them were pretty fuzzy on. We talked about how amazing it was when Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit and how He lives in us and is always with us! We had our own little communion in my back yard with Grape Fago and Hawaiian rolls. Then it was water balloon time!! It is so great to just let your hair down and act like you're eight sometimes. Mark Fisher enjoyed that kiddie pool from Wednesday while still wearing all his clothes—even his socks. My dog also joined him for a swim. It was so great to just act like kids!

June holds just as much fun and work for us! We'll serve at LUM, welcome our upcoming 6th graders into the group with a messy game night and cookout, have a GINORMOUS yard sale, and then head to Birmingham to work in the inner city. Jesus has really been working on all our hearts, showing us where he is working and where we need to meet him to get in on the action. We're learning what it looks like to be a true disciple and how we can help make more!

It was a huge reminder that God makes us all unique and that we need to love people first—not judge—and that we'll reap huge rewards by being like Jesus in this part of our lives.



Women's Ministry



"A Grand New Day"

Are you ready for "A Grand New Day"? Would you like to hear from Lisa Harper, Allison Allen, Sheila Walsh, Mandisa, Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll, Nicole C. Mullen, Marilyn Meberg, Lisa Welchel, with Special Guest Steven Curtis Chapman? (Sandi Patty, Marilyn Meberg, and Steve Arterburn will be leading the Special Friday Feature.)

Join the Ladies of Riverside on a weekend retreat including events at the Women of Faith. The Women of Faith Conference purports to be an "event where you will laugh..cry..and realize that you're not alone. Heart-felt,

hilarious messages, gripping drama, amazing music."

Women from Riverside will be joining together for the weekend of August 7-9. There are hotel rooms reserved and tickets set aside for you to fill your spot NOW! The tickets are \$55, and the hotel cost is \$77 per night (split amongst the ladies that room together). So sign up a close friend too and you can share the cost!

The Women of Faith conference starts on Friday morning, but working women (or those that just can't attend on Friday) can caravan down together on

Saturday to join the rest of the group. We will worship Sunday morning at a church in the Indianapolis area to wrap up the weekend.

There are several breaks in the conference and retreat activities to allow for shopping, fellowship, and fun together as Sisters in Christ.

Contact Babby, in the church office, if you are interested in a payment plan for the hotel cost. Money for the tickets is due ASAP! So don't miss out on a great opportunity to grow in Jesus!

Promiseland Chatter

Summer is here and our K-5th grade kids are going to learn what it is like to be F.L.I.P.T. They will be introduced to the

idea that following Jesus really "FLIPTS" our lives around. When we follow Jesus, we stop living our way and live Jesus' way, because it's the best way.

They will experience creative teaching of their Bible lesson on DVD which explains the lesson's FLIP. Following the video they will learn the Bible verse for that week and participate in a game that will show them how to apply what they learned into their daily lives. This month's topics are:

- Come Follow Me
- Walking on Water
- Tempted in the Desert
- Rejected at Nazareth

This will be a little different teaching style, but fun for our kids in Promiseland Discovery Hour.

In their first summer unit, our 3-5 year olds will hear how God gives strength and bravery through the stories of Noah, Daniel, Joshua, and Esther.

I'm very excited over the continued development of our Promiseland Ministry Team. There are now four others besides me—Kelly Blanchard, Dana Teefey, Stephanie Stout, and Margie Story have been a blessing to me as we move forward with ideas and future events for Riverside's children. We formulated an online parent survey this past month that we would appreciate all parents taking time to complete. Just go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspxsm=DDiDZqSoKwaBQgf6z7zB5w_3d_3d to complete the survey. We value your wisdom, ideas and concerns.

I believe we had a good school year here in Promiseland. We experienced some overcrowding early in the fall and divided a class, and now those two divided classes are pretty full again (blessings).

God has been faithful to provide all we need to do His work here, especially in the teacher/helper area. Thank you to all who have volunteered so faithfully these past nine months. You have blessed our children in this ministry through your commitment to serve.

Dar Muehlhausen

Adult Discovery Hour

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS CLASS

Are you wondering where to begin with God and faith? On **Sunday, June 7** Pastor Dan will begin teaching a class during Discovery Hour (9:00 a.m. on Sunday) that walks you through the starting points of understanding the Bible and what God desires from you. You will learn how to know you will go to heaven when you die, how to pray, how to study the bible, and other foundational aspects of the Christian faith. The class will last for 10 weeks. Each session will have an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have about the Christian faith. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact the office at 765.463.4600 or office@rcovenant.org.

Week 1: Where did the Bible come from and why should I care?

Week 2: Why am I here and what is God up to?

Week 3: How do I know I am saved? (Will I go to heaven when I die?)

Week 4: What is prayer and how do I do it?

Week 5: What is Bible Study and how do I do it?

Week 6: What is fellowship and community and how do I find it?

Week 7: What is witnessing and evangelism and how do I do it?

Week 8: What is a quiet time and how do I do it?

Week 9: Why is scripture memory important and where do I begin?

Week 10: How do I find my role in the story of God?

STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

- June 7: 3:1-11 Well Placed Confidence
- June 14: 3:12-14 Leaning Forward in the Christian Life
- June 21: 3:15 - 4:1 True Maturity
- June 28: 4:2-9 Rejoicing in the Lord
- July 5: 4:10-23 Living in Plenty and in Want



“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Philippians 4:8 NLT

Ministry Support

Operation Elim

Dear Friends at Riverside Covenant Church, Words of thanks are hard to express for all you have done for us in the ministry to Elim, Alaska. So many of our families have come to us telling us how blessed they were with the package they received from one of your families. Also for your monthly support gift to us we say “thank you”. God bless all of you as we work together to minister God’s love.
Pastor Terry and Teresa Allen

FaithWorks

To the Congregation of Riverside Covenant Church,

We appreciated the donation you made to FaithWorks. Your donation made unity, fellowship and service possible this year.
Purdue FaithWorks Planning Team

Love Inc.

Riverside supports Love INC (In the Name of Christ) with a monthly donation. Here is a summary of their first quarter activity figures

- 100+ calls were received from 15 different churches passing on 61 different needs-request from people outside their fellowship
- 37 of the 61 church-referred

needs-requests were ultimately serviced by our partnering churches and/or community help-providing entities (e.g. Salvation Army, LUM...)

- 50 adults and 37 children were assisted
- \$9,370 in monetary assistance and goods plus 16 hours of non-monetary assistance were provided by 17 different churches and 6 community help-providing entities.
- 361 hours total were rendered to the ministry by Love INC’s volunteers, executive director, clearinghouse coordinator and board members.

ECC

“...please know how appreciative I am of your congregation’s commitment to its membership in the ECC. This year in particular, we need you to be especially strong in your support of our common work...It is indeed a year of unprecedented opportunity.” Gary B. Walter, President of the ECC

- grew for a 17th consecutive year
- up a strong 6% in attendance
- have the potential to plant 20 new churches in 09
- In more than 30 countries on 5 continents

Riverside

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 Ben Leonard
5 Miriam Teefey
6 Alaina Farley
6 Tate Kirgiss
7 Neal Fearnot
8 Mark Fisher
9 Rachel Johnson
10 Larry Swift
12 Randy Bogan
13 Nathan Brennan
21 Beth Wood

25 Mark Timmerman
26 Chloe Madrid
30 Emily Blanchard

Anniversaries

2 Paul & Jamie Seebald
6 John & Joyce Christopher
9 Matt & Dar Muehlhausen
21 Larry & Karen Swift
24 John & Nancy Umbeck
26 Ryan & Lindsay Umbeck

June Calendar of Events

- ☞ Sundays, June 7, 14, 21, 28
 - Discovery Hour at 9:00 a.m.
 - Worship at 10:15 a.m.
 - Jr. High meets from 3:00-4:30 p.m. (except June 21)
 - Sr. High meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- ☞ Sunday, June 7, 2:30-5:30 p.m. — Blood Drive at Riverside (Bloodmobile)
- ☞ Sunday, June 7, 3:00-7:00 p.m.— Promiseland/ Nursery Appreciation Picnic at Happy Hollow Park
- ☞ Sunday, June 14, 12:00-7:00 p.m. — Youth Group Yard Sale at 713 Chelsea Street, WL
- ☞ Sunday, June 21-Friday, June 26 — Jr. High Mission Trip to Birmingham, AL
- ☞ Sunday, June 21 — Father's Day
- ☞ Sunday, June 21, 11:30 a.m. — Staff Meeting
- ☞ Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, 29 — Men's Bible Study at Riverside, 7:00 p.m.
- ☞ Tuesday, June 9 — Leadership Team meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- ☞ Wednesdays, June 10, 17 & 24 — Women's "Believing God" Bible Study at Dar Muehlhausen's, 6:30 p.m.
- ☞ Thursdays, June 11, 18, & 25 — Men's Bible Study at Riverside, 6:30 a.m.

June 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				