

Elgin Congregational Holiness Church

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Men's Fellowship: Free Breakfast is the First Saturday of every month at 9am. Everyone Welcome! See Rev. Richard Abram for more information.**
- **Women's Meeting: Third Thursday of every month. Speak to Sis. Linda Cowart to help or if you have any ideas**
- **Remember our youth: They need our help. Contact Sis's. Angela Barnette or Melinda Abram to see how you can help.**
- **Want to contribute or help with the newsletter? Contact Melinda Abram mabram458@gmail.com**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

My Child	2
Subtle Syllogism	3
Yard Sale	3
Breaking Bread & Records	3
Lessons in Living	4
Moment with the Madewell's	5
Calendar	6

New Leadership

We are well into the new year. With the new year came new beginnings and with the new beginnings came new leadership. We voted last month for leadership of many of the departments. Votes were cast for the Heads of departments to the Helpers. With these changes it would be good to make you aware who holds what position. Some of the following were not elected in this past election but are listed mostly for your information. Most of the positions are held for a year and will be re-elected next year. Just because you were not elected does not mean that the leaders do not need your help. If you feel led of God, please volunteer. Go to the head of the department and ask what you can help with. As always,

please remember your Pastor, other leadership, and our church in your prayers. All of the leaders take on a huge responsibility by accepting the available positions and need constant prayer. The following are the different elected officials of the Church.

Sunday School:

Superintendent: Wayne Cowart
Assistant: Mark Madewell
2nd Assistant: Shawn Cowart
Secretary: Linda Cowart

Brotherhood Department:

Head: Richard Abram
Assistant: Tommy Dixon

Women's Department:

Head: Linda Cowart
Assistant: Pat Ortman
Secretary: Tangy Sims

Youth Department:

Youth Director: Melinda Abram
Assistant: Angela Barnette
Helper: Shawn Cowart
Helper: David Abram

Music Department:

Head: Judy Hensley
If you have any departmental questions, please contact those listed above.

It Starts as a Child

by Angela Barnette
As a child develops they grow for their family to see all their stages of development. There is a first tooth, then first steps sometime in their first year. When I started working with the younger children I remember the joy of the children and seeing their firsts in church. As we know, children are not small adults, and they do have needs to be met for proper development. They have to be taught how to look up a book, a chapter and a verse in the Bible. There is so much for them to learn and know from a young age. We must come together with other Christians to teach the children that walk past us in our daily lives. We need to look for opportunities

for teaching children inside our church as well as outside of our church. Something that should jolt us into gear as Christian workers is something George Barna states:

"The research is very clear: if Jesus is not already part of their lives by the time they leave junior high school, the chances of them accepting Him as their Lord and savior is very slim (6%, to be exact). With children, it is just the opposite. Because of the challenges and insecurities they face in life, they are very open to being a part of a community of like-minded people who grow together. Children have a tremendous influence within their families and on the choices they make in all areas of life...*The greatest evangelical window currently available is among young children.*"

Also, R. S. Lee, the author of *Your Growing Children and Religion* says:

"The first seven years [of life] constitute the period for laying the foundations of religion. This is the most important period in the whole of a person's life in determining his later religious attitudes."

Research has proven the Bible verse: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6, KJV)

I am overjoyed with having the opportunity to teach the Elgin CHC younger youth again. I invite you to take on opportunity as it comes your way in being a Christian worker...be part of building a foundation that will last for eternity, a child.

MY CHILD

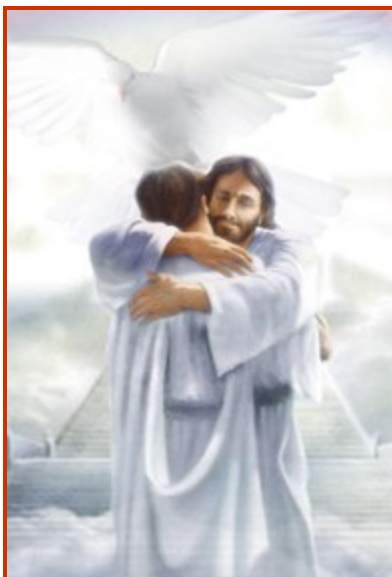
C.R. Madewell

“My God, I try so very hard,”
I cry in prayer and pain,
“To do Your will, to make it work,
To magnify Your Name.
I know You’ve called me higher,
And I do the best I can
I do everything I know to do
To live up to Your plan.
But, Lord, I am so tired,
And I’ve scarcely just begun.
You’ve called me to so very much,
How can I get it done?”

“My child, you are so precious,”
My Father sings to me
“You’re beautiful –
Exactly what I’ve created you to be.
But, darling, you don’t understand,
You’re not strong enough alone.
With all your might
(And none of Mine)
You’ll never get it done.
You’re weak by my intention,
Your insufficiency is blessed,
It’s now, when you’ve done all you can
My strength is at its best.
So, dry your eyes,
And don’t lose heart,
Be steady in the race.
By works you’ll never win the prize,
But only by My Grace.”

“My God, it seems that laughter
Is all I ever hear.
With constant lies and criticism
Ringing in my ears.
So many claimed to love me,
But quickly turned away.
Because I’ve taken up my cross,
I stand alone today.
Tell me what to say to them
To turn it all around,
How do I make them realize
The truth that I have found?”

“My child, the love I’ve given you
Is not for you alone.
So many blindly seek it –
They’ll never find it on their own.
You’re my light in shadowed places,
Set aglow by My own spark,
You’re my beacon to the hearts of men,
And you’re brighter in the dark.
Some of them won’t understand,
Some will never see.
Just remember when they scoff at you,
That they first hated Me.



You don’t need man’s approval,
Don’t seek worldly accolade,
True peace and joy are given you
By the ransom that I paid.”
“Will I ever make it?
Will I ever see the end?
So many storms and trials,
Seems my heart will never mend.
Everything that seemed so clear
Not so very long ago,
Seems now more like mud and muck
Than the truth I used to know.
I’m smothered by this darkness,

Suffocated by this fear,
I can’t feel Your presence,
Doesn’t seem like You still care.
What did I do to warrant this?
Where did I go so wrong?
Please, Jesus, come and be with me,
What’s taking You so long?”
“My child, ye of little faith,
Don’t you understand?
Have you forgotten that the storms of life
Are still at my command?
Death is but a shadow,
This valley merely part of life,
I brought you here to better you,
And I’ve never left your side.
Refining fire always burns,
But one day you will see,
The perfect care I take
To make the treasure that you’ll be.”

“My God, it’s all so beautiful!
Like I never dreamed!
The streets of gold, the Tree of Life,
This ever-flowing stream!
I think of how You brought me here –
The perfect life that You laid down –
I humbly bow before You now,
And offer you my crown.
Such perfect peace and abundant joy
On earth I never knew,
But now it’s mine forevermore,
And all because of You!”

“Well done, My child,
And welcome home,
Now, let Me dry those tears.
Come, enjoy the inheritance
You’ve hoped for all these years.
Your legacy will carry on,
Your descendants will be blessed.
You’ve fought the fight and overcome,
Now enter in and rest!”

Subtle Syllogism

by David Abram

Fleeting Faith-The events of last month's Winter Renewal afforded me the opportunity to witness the awesome power of God's Holy Spirit in action. The experience was mostly positive, but in retrospect there is no way I could ignore one certain lesson which could have easily gone overlooked. On the second day of worship the spokesperson for the renewal announced that there was a loss of a hearing aid on the go-cart tracks of

Gatlinburg, TN. He explained how expensive the device was and how the family simply could

not afford a replacement, and then we took up an offering on the family's behalf. Before I go any further, love offerings for those in need are absolutely necessary; please make no mistake as to what this article is about.

If you have witnessed the Holy Spirit in action, then you know God is able. So why do we limit Him by tying His hands? Why do we put our faith so easily into money, yet struggle to give even the smallest amount of trust to our God? We have grown accustomed

to reaching into our pockets in times of need as an immediate solution to a God-allowed problem. God does not want to see how much money we have; He wants to see how much faith we have. A great number of 'Christians' have learned to cope with living beneath God's will. Christ is not a religion, and so we cannot limit him to one. If we make money our God, and lose prayer as our solution, we have already admitted that this man deserves to be deaf, and we have the answer in our wallets.

But why is faith so fleeting? Who is God to us? What is His Word? Is it a story, or is it truth? Why then can we not

take comfort knowing that the God of the Bible is the God of today? Many times God stands on the court with his arms flailing, begging for a pass. Give it to Him and let him do His thing, or keep it; the ball is in your hands. There will always be a faithful few who trust God to do miracles daily, but there stood not one in that congregation with faith enough to lay hands on the man and pray for one that day—and I was among them. Perhaps we are all a little deaf to God's true will. Maybe we all have suffered the dents and bumps of this life and have lost our ability to always hear the voice of truth.



Yard Sale

The new Brotherhood Record was partly supported by the Women's Department who came together to prepare for next weeks church yard sale. The ladies met at the church on Saturday morning to go through and begin preparing all the generous donations that were given thus far. Not to worry though, if you have-

n't brought in your donations just make sure to have them by the Wednesday, March 9, 2011, night service and the women's department will gladly accept whatever you have to give. Maybe even see a sneak peak of what there is to offer. Some of the men have already started buying what the women are putting together. Don't miss our Yard Sale on Saturday March 12, 2011. What a blessing to see both departments in Unity.

Breaking Bread & Records with the Brotherhood

Well Valentines day has come and gone but the memory of the fun, fellowship, and food lingers on. February 12, 2011 the brotherhood department on behalf of all the men of the church collaborated and took the ladies of our church out to dinner. The men enjoy the opportunity to thank for the ladies for all the hard

work done throughout the year. Everyone leaves happy and extremely full, not only on food but with the memories of smiles

record breaking, attendance to the brotherhood breakfast on March 5, 2011 a possibility. An amazingly delicious breakfast of

meeting for the yard sale preparation led the men to demolish their previous record of 27 people in attendance to a

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

and joy on their heart.

The Brotherhood Department would also like to thank everyone who made the huge,

eggs, biscuits, gravy, sausage, bacon, and grits was served to everyone. This scrumptious food coupled with the women

new colossal record of 37. If you missed this breakfast make sure to attend the next one to enjoy this mouth watering meal (there are even rumors of pancakes in the future).

Lessons in living learned from boy

As reported October 15, 1999 by The State newspaper, Columbia, SC

By Heather S. Liafsha— I've been a nurse for 10 years. Many times, I have questioned if I chose the right profession. I became a nurse because I wanted to work with terminally ill children. I knew that I couldn't cure them but hoped that I could in some way make their life a little easier. Unfortunately, my career path didn't take me to the children that I had always wanted to help until last year.

I started a new job as a liaison for a home infusion company. I was excited about the challenges and the new people that I would meet. I had no idea that job would change my life.

I met Joshua in October 1998. He was a wonderful 4-year-old with big, bright eyes. He had a heart as pure as gold and an infectious laugh that came from deep within his belly. Joshua never met a stranger, and everyone that knew him fell in love with him.

Joshua was fighting a brain tumor that was first diagnosed when he was about 10 months old. Chemotherapy radiation, IV sticks and blood draws were a normal everyday occurrence. There were times during his life that the monster that occupied his brain robbed him of his speech, his ability to walk, and his ability to play like a normal child his age. But Joshua was not afraid of that monster. He fought bravely like David fighting Goliath.

I became close friends with Joshua and his family. Every time I visited, he would give me a big hug and thank me for his medicine. No other patient had ever done that! As I became closer to Josh, I learned that he had a tremendous love and faith in God. I often wondered how someone who had been through so much could retain such a faith. It was a mystery to me how such a wonderful God could cause

such pain in such a small child. However, Joshua did not have any hard feelings or anger about his disease or fate, not did his family. Because of his illness, he was thankful for everyday that God let him spend with inability to walk at times, or the fact that the very treatment that was supposed to help him made him extremely sick. Instead, he focused on the fact that the sun came up that day, or that God let it rain to water the flowers, or that someone remembered to bring

sight. I cried all the way home that day.

I have many wonderful memories of Joshua. Each one is very special and dear to my heart. But what I remember most about this special child is his zest for life and his love of God. I never imagined that at my age I could learn something from a 4-year-old. But I learned more about life, hope, love, and living in the short nine months that I knew Joshua than in the 30 years that I have been alive.



Joshua Crim

He taught me to live everyday to the fullest, to be thankful for the sun, the rain, the birds and flowers, my family and friends, and the little things we all take for granted. He taught me to hope that the tallest mountains can be climbed, and the meanest monster can be tamed, and to pray to a God that has a master plan for all of us. But mostly, Joshua taught me how to love. He loved everything and everyone unconditionally. He had a love of life unsurpassed by most adults. He loved everyday regardless of pain and accepted that fact that each day may be his last. He loved his mother very

much, and looked forward to being her guardian angel.

Joshua made me realize that I did choose the right career. For the first time, I have found meaning in my life and in my career. I have taken a new position with the hospital where Joshua spent a large portion of his life. Hopefully, I can soon work again with those special children.

I learned a lot from that special, bright-eyed-4-year-old. But in the end, his death taught me how to live.

him his favorite snack, candy corn.

I used to bring Josh balloons when I delivered his medicine. He would always share his balloons with his cousins, or anyone else who was there. If there were any left over, and there always were, he would take them outside and release them in the air. Once I asked him why he let all his balloons go. He looked at me as if I had asked the silliest question he had ever heard and replied very matter-of-factly that he was sending the balloons to the kids up in heaven. We watched as every balloon faded out of

A Moment With the Madewell's



—Do you hold any positions in the church?

Mark is on the board, and Candice teaches adult Sunday school.

—Do you have children? Names, Ages?

Noah James - 4yrs
Hannah Katherine - 7mos.
??? - expecting in September!!!

—Favorite color?

Candice: Purple
Mark: Blue

—Favorite book in the bible? Why?

Candice: Proverbs - lots of wisdom in succinct, easy-to-remember tidbits!

Mark: Proverbs because of all of Solomon's knowledge contained in it.

—How long has your family been at Elgin CH Church?

Mark and I joined late summer or fall (can't remember) of 2009.

—What activities do you do outside of church?

We spend most of our time with our kids. We also enjoy video games, movies, going to the park, etc.

—What's the story of you being saved?

Candice: I was lead to the Lord by the pastor of a small country church when I was 20. I was waiting tables at a Cracker Barrel, and he was a customer of mine.

Mark :After the passing of his mother, he was on his way to commit suicide. He stopped in Columbia first to see me [Candice] for the first time in years. Through our conversations concerning God and the leading of our pastor at the time, he was led to God.

—What brought you to where you are in Christ today?

Candice: So far, it has been a hard road of many trials and disappointments (while, at the same time, many blessings). I honestly believe that God has

—What brought you to Elgin CH?

God lead us out of a bad church situation in a church we had been involved in for years. It was by His grace that He had a faithful believing family all lined up for us! We didn't have to search for long.

me in a period of my life in which He is working on me and teaching me to trust in Him. It hasn't been easy, but looking back, I am grateful for every change He has made!

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And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who [are] those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

Genesis 33:5

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New Baby Madewell



September 2011

**Elgin Congregational Holiness
Church**

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Luke
Asst Pastor: Rev. Judith Luke

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March

by: Allison Barnette

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5 Brother- hood Breakfast 9AM
6 General WM Day	7	8	9 Youth Group/ WM do- nations	10	11	12 Youth Rally/ WM Yard Sale
13 Day Light Savings	14	15 Brice's Surgery	16	17 St. Pat- rick's Day; WM Meeting 7PM	18	19
20 Spring Be- gins/Spe- cial Singing 6PM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 WM Re- treat Be- gins	¹ WM Re- treat	² WM Re- treat (Last Day)

Sunday

10AM-Sunday School
11AM- Worship/Preaching/Children's Church
6PM-Worship/Preaching

Wednesday

7PM-Worship/Preaching

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul -Psalms 121:7