



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

Eyes Wide Open!

A favorite old hymn is **Open My Eyes, That I May See** by Clara H. Scott, written in 1895 (TUMH, #454). Below is verse one and the chorus.

"Open my eyes that I may see Glimpses of truth You have for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee. Ready my God Your will to see. Open my eyes illumine me, Spirit divine"

Hope and new life. Springtime is about new growth, and new discoveries. The picture is of a house finch nest made inside a spring wreath on our front door. It is fairly-well hidden (we discovered it accidentally) and safe from weather and predators. We are curious how we and mama finch will do when the eggs hatch. Discoveries surprise and delight us. It is good to keep our eyes and ears open. It is good to keep our hearts and souls open for things that are just outside our view.



We are not always open or ready for new discoveries. Loss and grief can close us up. Bad news can crowd out hope. The temptation is to cave in on ourselves.

How can we be open to the wonders that surround us? Be honest about what you are going through. Give voice to your struggles but set a time limit. Practice being aware. Work at taking note of what is around you. Paying attention is hard work for most of us. Ask God for help. Cultivate an attitude of saying thank you. Be grateful for the little things. Maybe even keep a journal of the things you are grateful for.

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to pay attention to the voices and intrigues of nature that surround us at this time of year.



L to R: Hazel Linke, Bonnie Rembacz, Jackie Jones, Jane Beasley, & Sue Heiskanen.

These five ladies met at Elim Lutheran Church in 1977. Our kids went to Sunday School and Bible School together. We formed a friendship that has held us together through the years.

(Photo credit: Bonnie Rembacz)

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New Project of Potential Interest

The Weber County Heritage Foundation has begun a project recording information about historic (read "old") churches in the Ogden area. If you have any information about Elim's history that you would like to share, especially photographic records, you can contact Gloria Wurst at 801-627-2769 or gwurst@weber.edu. The researchers in charge of the project are currently collecting information to be archived. Thanks for any ideas, images, information, etc. that you might contribute.

Getting To Know You

Welcome to a new series intended to help us get to know more about our fellow congregants, beginning with our more "mature" friends. In this issue, we feature Shirley-Evertsen-Taylor, who has been a member of Elim since the 1940's, beginning in the little white church.

Born in Beloit, WI, in 1929, she has "always been a Lutheran." Her family moved from WI, first to OH, and thence to Evansville, IN, in 1934, where they lost everything in a 1937 flood. They moved subsequently from IN to Ogden in 1940 because her father "decided to go west." She remembers vividly, during the flood, "leaving home in a boat with nothing" except what she could wear or carry. Shirley spent the first 6 years of her education at Redeemer Lutheran Church School (Evansville) which firmly impressed upon her the joys of being a Lutheran.



Shirley married Gerald Evertsen in 1948, and they were active members of Elim, attending the early service every Sunday. Shirley has served the church in multiple ways over the years, including teaching Sunday School, tending the nursery, helping with many volunteer projects, and being a faithful member of Mary Circle to this day. In her words, "You name it, and I was involved ... at some time."

Shirley and Gerald had three daughters, Vicki, Rae Ann and Gerri Lynn, who were raised in the Elim family. Shirley now has a total of four grandchildren and 6 great grand-children to keep her mind and body from getting bored; she also has several "grand-doggies."

Over her working years, Shirley held various sales-clerk jobs; Gerald worked for 46 years in the grocery business. After their retirement, they traveled frequently to Wendover and Las Vegas.

After Gerald's death in 2002, Shirley married Lamar Taylor. Although they were of different religions, they always made a point of attending their separate churches on Sunday. They also continued the fun travel tradition Shirley had begun with Gerald until LaMar's death in 2006.

Shirley has been a lover of pets since her childhood and has worked diligently to promote their humane treatment, as a member of the Humane Society and as a frequent voice contacting our legislators in defense of animal rights. She believes that "inhumane treatment of animals goes against Christianity." She has had several generations of pups herself and continues to enjoy her daughters' pets.

Having been an Elimate for the last 70+ years, apart from a few years attending Ascension because of its proximity to her home at the time, Shirley has this to say about Elim: "It's the most wonderful thing to have a church home. Elim is my home. It's gotten me through some terrible strife in my life.... As a church, it is so close to Jesus, my Savior. His grace and mercy have always seen me through my life and its challenges."

Thanks to Shirley for being such a faithful member of our "family" and all the best wishes for continued health and happiness!

