



The Eastwood Beacon

*Eastwood nurtures positive development in people's lives
through the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.*

- Mission Statement adopted by Eastwood Baptist Church, January 19, 2014.

February 22, 2017

Journey to the Cross

(A New Exodus)¹

To this day Jews keep the festival of Passover (that)... looks back in the story and festival to the great act of promise-fulfilling liberation in which God overthrew Pharaoh, set his people free, and came to dwell in their midst... The "new Exodus," would be (includes) the 'forgiveness of sins,' that Jesus's death had accomplished.
(Wright, 117 adapted)

Post World War II America became an ancient Egypt for me. It was a time when material growth and opportunity were masters of destiny. Shaped for a quarter of a century by idols of affluence and ambition, I was preparing to embrace the gods of Egypt, when a spirit of truth revealed the illusions of Egypt and the insipid forms of slavery. The fetters began to fall off and the dreams were broken. A "new Exodus" beckoned, "Come, follow me." In exchange for the lies and broken dreams of Egypt, the "new exodus" offered forgiveness of sin and life in the land where God rules. Mine has been a forty-year journey to the cross, a modern exodus marked by wandering in the wilderness and finding the oases of grace along the way to the land of the unclouded day.

Not unlike yearly Jewish remembrance of Passover, the 'new Exodus' is commemorated annually in a 40-day journey concluding in the Holy Week events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. Over the course of 40 years, I have employed multiple practices to deepen my experience of the Cross of Christ and reflect upon its place in my life. Sometimes I fasted from entertainment. At other times, I fasted from meat and dessert. Surprisingly, I even fasted from Starbucks for a season of 40 days. Still, other times, I didn't fast but intentionally engaged in acts of mercy and kindness. This year the pilgrimage reminds me of the freedom and new life I discovered so many years ago. I am still in the midst of that new Exodus.

At Eastwood, this year's theme will be the Journey to the Cross. It will be central in our reflections in Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening prayer times. The Journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st at 6:00 pm in the Koinonia Building. Each Wednesday evening we will engage in a prayer time shaped by the ancient practices found in the Taize tradition of song and silence.

We hope you will consider participating in the Journey to the Cross this year. Join us for worship and prayer affirming the new Exodus that shapes our lives.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Miller

¹New Exodus is a phrase employed by NT Wright in his new book *The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion*, New York: Harper Row, 2016.

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EASTWOOD STAFF

Randolph T. Miller

Pastor

Sharon Dady

Choir Director

Linda Tripp

Accompanist

Sue Becker

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Kaitlyn Brunson

Nursery Attendant

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2017



The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4:18-19: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (NRSV).

Through your generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as we continually address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of our American Baptist family.

Consider making a generous gift!

We are encouraged by this year’s theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering 2017 and helping us to reach our goal in support of home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Together we can make a difference.

Registration is open for the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon, June 30 - July 2. The theme is “Connect!”

Speakers: Rev. Sharon T. Koh, Executive Director American Baptist International Ministries

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

Ukulele Orchestra

**Brochures and Registrations forms are available
at the Welcome Center**



Thanks and Praise (2/19)

Praise! Eli's tests all came back negative. Thank you for your prayers, they are so appreciated. (Carlene Whitmoyer)

Thank you for the gift bag last Sunday and all the prayers these past few months! On the mend now. (Terri Bish)

"Here I Am, Lord" – inspiring song. Thank you, Pastor Miller, for the thought provoking sermon.

Praise God for a wonderful visit from family and friends from all over the world this weekend. Lots of laughter and catching up on all the news. (Dorothy Noyes)

A Love Your Library Thank You



Thank you for your contributions for Love your Library Day. Since the church library is not in the budget, these contributions enable us to continue to buy new titles.

Come in and see what is on the shelves!

Joan Avery, Church Librarian

Thank You!

I just wanted to thank you very much for the thoughtful bag of goodies and sympathy card that the wonderful women at Eastwood put together for me. The home-made cookies were wonderful, but not nearly as touching as the warmth of the loving women of Eastwood who put these packages together.

My heartfelt thanks to all of the Eastwood family for their kindness and thoughts.

Thank you
Carl Harsh

Thank You

Thank you so much for the great care package! It means so much to know that people care and pray for me...I know that is why I am having such a speedy recovery.

Rosalie Neufeld

Many Thanks

Our sincere thanks to everyone who baked cookies, brought snacks, goodies, toiletries or donated money to the College/Military Care Package ministry. These boxes are so appreciated by the students and soldiers that receive them! We appreciate each one of you as well and thank you for your support of this ministry.

College/Military Care Team

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Our Church: its leaders and families

All of those with health needs.

All service people here and overseas, including:

Kevin Hoffman, Army

Lolo Vasquez, Iraq

Aaron Chisem, US Navy

Jason Cesario, Iraq

Logan Oravetz, Army

Isaac Gilmer, Marines

Tyler Powell, Marines

Tiffany Hart, Air Force

Trevor Swanson, Air Force

Please pray for all students, teachers and parents (of all ages of children)

Unemployed / Underemployed

Our ABC-CPC churches, pastors and missionaries (**Dan & Sarah Chetti, Ed & Miriam Noyes, Glen & Rita Chapman, and Kyle & Katrina Williams**) serving around the world.

Jonna Reeder

Tim & Mary Dady serving in Latvia

New Member Class

On Sundays, beginning on February 19th, we will hold a new member class for those interested in Baptism.

This class will meet after the morning worship on the following Sundays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

February 19th and 26th, March 5th and 12th

Bring your brown bag lunch. Please sign up on your Communication Cards and let us know of your interest.

Mission Giving Opportunity

During the month of February, we have been collecting for our local Boy Scout Troop 5. This is a chance to say thank you for what they have done for the church and the community. Among other things, they have put up a chain link fence behind the church and helped with last year's Block Party. Last year, members attended the funeral of a local veteran to help ensure he would not be laid to rest alone.

Organized more than 25 years ago, the troop currently has approximately 40 scouts and has produced 53 Eagle Scouts. Eastwood members involved in the troop include Allan Campbell, Andy Tripp, Derek Tripp and Pastor Miller.



Dear Friends,

Life has continued to keep us on our toes. Shortly after arriving in Kikongo, Kyle began the role of Administrator of the Budget at the University. Mainly this means overseeing all things financial. Because math is universal this was a good fit while we continue to advance in our French and our understanding of culture.

We quickly learned how culturally different we are when it comes to finances. For example there is no burden to pay a debt in Congo, including tuition, only a burden to collect it. So the majority of students haven't paid their fees. They continue to show up each day to class and participate as normal even though the "due date" for tuition was Nov. 19th. You can imagine this makes planning and executing a budget difficult.

We've been told that the exams (that commence this week) serve as a final deadline for payments. We have 150 students, but as of today only 35 have paid their fees to take the exams. With only two days left to make payments before exams, we are holding our breath for students to pull our budget out of the red. Apparently it is normal for students to wait until the last possible moment to pay just enough to continue. I imagine this also happens at Universities in the States, though possibly not to this extent. Sometimes watching these differences play out is amusing while at other times it is exhausting.

We got our feet wet last month helping teach an English course for an hour each day. A minimum of 90 hours of English is required for all degree programs. It has been enjoyable to be amongst the students regularly.

Katrina has been teaching basic accounting to our cashier. Salaries get paid on time and we know how much money the school has to work with at any given time, which hasn't always been the case. She is also aiding the cashier this week as they count the large stacks of Congolese bills students bring in as payment.

While a University in rural Africa seems impossible at times, we know God has asked us to do hard things. We see huge needs and are trying to creatively utilize the resources around us to fill in gaps while looking towards the future and reassessing our current strategies.

Thank you for each of your gifts in 2016. You have been sustaining our time here and service at the Université au Congo. We thank God each day for you because we can focus on the task at hand knowing that you are behind us.

Your co-workers in Christ,
Kyle & Katrina Williams

Kids' Corner

If you look closely, you will see Ian way up in the tree giving it a trim Congolese style. Each day our kids are more comfortable here. We hear their 3rd language starting to present itself as they understand more and more Kituba. They are learning to use machetes, play local games, fish in the river and many other things. It is a joy to watch.



Down a Deep Hole

There is a deep hole in our yard. It was dug a little over a month ago and is a future out-house. As I (Katrina) was unpacking from our trip to Kinshasa, we were summoned over to see a snake that had fallen in. We weren't surprised to see a stranded animal at the bottom of the hole. So far, it has collected a few lizards, some frogs and lots of crickets. We've done our best to lure the lizards and frogs into a bucket and hoist them to freedom. A snake, as we would soon find out, requires more than a simple bucket, especially when you aren't sure how venomous of a snake you are dealing with.

For most of our Congolese neighbors, the only reason to relieve the snake from captivity is for dinner. However, the few who work the closest with us, knew right away we wouldn't want to hurt it. So, together, we fended off the big sticks and machetes while Kyle thought through how to make a deep-pit snake-catching contraption with items found in our house and Ian ran back and forth to the house fetching the various items.



By this time, a small crowd had gathered around the action, including our kids and some neighbor children. The adults stayed busy helping Kyle and pulling children back from the edge. At one point Tata Luc, our neighbor/gardener/cultural liaison, warned a child, "Don't fall in because if you do you will die twice." Kyle immediately laughed. The first death Luc spoke of was the length of the fall, the second was being bitten by the snake.

After about twenty minutes, two curtain rods, a couple long sticks, a bunch of zip ties, and a pillowcase had been turned into an adequate contraption, the snake was safely and securely escorted out of the hole.

During all of the commotion, much conversation was had regarding what should happen to the snake. We talked about the local ecology and how snakes contribute. Our neighbors spoke of the danger snakes present to the community. We mentioned that most snakes are not particularly dangerous unless imminently threatened and cornered. Many of our neighbors couldn't remember the last time someone was actually hurt by a snake, so they communicated the void in their stomachs. This is one place where our cultures and life circumstances collide.

We grew up with grocery stores, full stomachs and plenty of free time to explore and appreciate God's beautiful and bountiful creation. We know that no resource is infinite. We have read books and taken classes concerning the proper management of resources and lamented our own overconsumption while remaining far removed from our food production. Our neighbors, on the other hand, have grown up working in their family's fields, which produce their family's daily meals. They have built homes from natural resources gather themselves, hauled drinking water daily and sometimes gone without full stomachs. I can hear the cries of western conservationists denouncing the practices of rural people groups in developing countries, but there isn't a perfect answer. Different cultures around the world eat different types of wild and farmed animals and utilize different systems (or none at all) of managing their populations. Some of these systems take into account the long term effects on the ecosystem and others do not. There is no simple answer to feeding the world without drastically changing cultural norms.

If we were living in the States, we would advocate for changing cultural norms that do not promote global sustainability, starting with our own shortcomings. It gets more complicated when we step outside of our passport country because we don't always have a clear picture of culture.

We desire to work together with our neighbors toward common goals and it is complicated when our neighbors sometimes struggle to put food on their tables. When it is hard to feed your family, that easily becomes your one and only goal. Given this reality, it is foremost on our hearts to utilize the resources we have available in order to facilitate the alleviation of some of the immediate needs. This is no easy endeavor cross-culturally and we have a long road ahead of us in cultural and language understanding before we can hope to make a positive difference in the daily lives of our neighbors. But we have begun to think outside the box. There are many animals here that provide good food, but left unmanaged are being wiped out.

Kyle brought some native turtles back from Kinshasa to begin to replenish the once abundant number in the Wamba river. Perhaps by farming them we can manage numbers and release a steady supply in to the wild for reproduction and hunting. We are seeking funding to start a crocodile farm and aquaponics project to better raise fish and vegetables alike. We are also researching ostriches.

With each of these potential projects, having to bring all supplies in by plane or truck means the process is slow and expensive. If these are projects that you find interesting please write to tell us, share your knowledge or maybe ask a further question.

Aside from the question of resources, the main question we always come back to is how will these new ideas be received in our community. Will there be enough interest and benefit to the community for these projects to continue long term?

March 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

February 26	February 27	February 28	1	2	3	4
8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 New Members Class	10:00 Women's Grove 7:00 Boys Scouts	Noon - Men's Bible Study	Ash Wednesday 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Journey to the Cross 7:15 Choir Practice	1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East		10:00 Uke Practice
5 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 12:00 New Members Class	6 10:00 Women's Grove 7:00 Boys Scouts	7 Noon - Men's Bible Study 6:00 Cub Scouts	8 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Journey to the Cross 7:15 Choir Practice	9 3:30 Knitting/Crocheting 5:30 Deacons' Agape Meeting 6:45 Worship Committee	10	11 9:00 Church Work Party 10:00 Uke Practice
12 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 New Members Class	13 10:00 Women's Grove 7:00 Boys Scouts	14 Noon - Men's Bible Study	15 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Journey to the Cross 7:15 Choir Practice	16	17 9:00 Builders' Social	18 9:30 Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Punky's 10:00 Uke Practice
19 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	20 10:00 Women's Grove 7:00 Boys Scouts	21 Noon - Men's Bible Study	22 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Journey to the Cross 7:15 Choir Practice	23 3:30 Knitting/Crocheting 5:30 Deacons' Business Meeting	24	25 Deacons' Retreat With Steve Bils
26 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Steve Bils, speaking	27 10:00 Women's Grove 7:00 Boys Scouts	28 Noon - Men's Bible Study	29 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Journey to the Cross 7:15 Choir Practice	30 5:30 Cub Scouts	31	April 1 April Fool's Day 10:00 Uke Practice

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

11-Mar	Eddie Goulart
11-Mar	Richard Millus
14-Mar	Richard Avery
14-Mar	Carlene Whitmoyer
20-Mar	Hugh Barnhill
20-Mar	Rosalie Bowman
21-Mar	Dale Tepper
23-Mar	Harold Bartol
26-Mar	Scott Lektorich
26-Mar	Linda Tripp
27-Mar	Roxanne Ramirez
28-Mar	Jeanette Mitchell
30-Mar	Mary Lou Gebhard
31-Mar	Joan Avery
31-Mar	Jacob Kinsman

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

9-Mar	Bill & Carolyn Dutton
14-Mar	John & Virginia Yungen

Please contact Sue in the Church Office or note it on your communication card if your special day has been missed or reported incorrectly.

Save the Date!

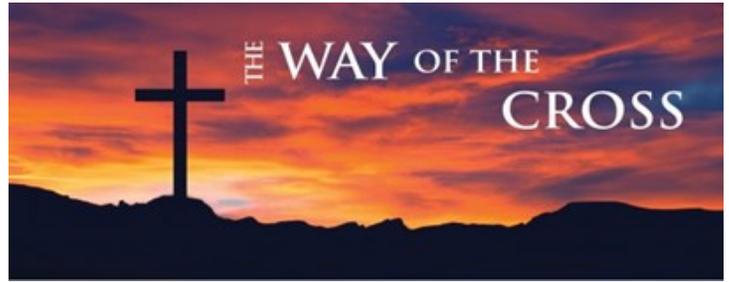
Mother Daughter Tea - May 6th

Ladies!

Save the date! On **May 6th**, **Mylanda Baits** will be our speaker/leader at our Mother-Daughter Tea. It will be a special time to "connect with creativity through art", a restorative work she does with women around the world. Young girls are also invited. She and husband Gary have been missionaries in Costa Rica.



If you don't have a mother or daughter, bring along a friend. All are invited!



Mystery of the Cross - A Work of Reconciliation

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; ... So if anyone is in Christ, , there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors from Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Cor. 5: 16 - 21

40 DAY JOURNEY TO THE CROSS - 2017

In order to deepen our experience of the Mystery of the Cross and embrace the work of reconciliation, we of Eastwood Baptist Church invite you to join a 40 day journey of faith, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1.

Employing a pattern of worship and prayer, this pilgrimage will be shaped by the ancient practices of prayer on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 pm and worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Our path will take us through times of doubt and uncertainty, to the events of Holy Week with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday.

Our prayer times are modelled after the Taize Community of France, with prayers offered in word and song.

Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, March 18th - 9:30 am
at Punky's Diner - 953 Medford Center

Come join us for fellowship and breakfast at Punky's Diner in Medford.



See you there!

Questions? Need a ride?

Call Sue Lektorich (541) 499-1059

Memory Verse of the Week - (2/19 - 2/25)

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you: and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36: 25 NRSV

Proverbs - Wisdom that Works

An Adult Sunday School Class

9:15 in the Walker Room

New People are welcome to join at any time.



Eastwood Beacon

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **March 8, 2016**. If you have anything you would like put in the *Beacon*, an up-coming event, a function, etc. please **have all copy in the church office by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 7, 2016**.

Email sbecker@ebcmedford.org

This Beacon **will not** be mailed.

Church Work Day

Inviting **ALL** who want to help "spruce up" our church.



The next scheduled Work Day is **Saturday, March 11th**. Meet at the church at 9:00 am and we should be finished by 12:00. Please bring rakes, clippers and **DON'T FORGET** the gloves! **See you there.**

Questions...call Don Eastman at (541) 773-7237

Knitting & Crocheting Group

The knitting & crocheting group will meet on Wednesdays, March 9th and 23rd at 3:30 pm.

February 26, 2017

SUNDAY, February 26th

Prayer in Chapel 8:00
 Sunday School 9:15
 Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching 10:30

MONDAY, February 27th

Women's Grove Bible Study 10:00
 Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, February 28th

Men's Bible Study Noon

WEDNESDAY, March 1st - Ash Wednesday

Staff Meeting 11:00
 Journey to the Cross Prayer Service 6:00
 Choir Practice 7:15

THURSDAY, March 2nd

Fellowship Support at New Far East 1:00

FRIDAY, March 3rd

SATURDAY, March 4th

Uke Practice 10:00

March 5, 2017

SUNDAY, March 5th

Prayer in Chapel 8:00
 Sunday School 9:15
 Communion Worship Service 10:30
 Pastor Miller, preaching

MONDAY, March 6th

Women's Grove Bible Study 10:00
 Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, March 7th

Men's Bible Study: 12:00
 Cub Scouts 6:00

WEDNESDAY, March 8th

Staff Meeting 11:00
 Journey to the Cross Prayer Service 6:00
 Choir Practice 7:15

THURSDAY, March 9th

Knitting/Crocheting 3:30
 Deacon's Agape Meeting 5:30
 Worship Committee Meeting 6:45

FRIDAY, March 10th

SATURDAY, March 11th

Church Work Party 9:00
 Uke Practice 10:00