



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.

March 8, 2017

Encountering Wisdom

This week, Leslie and I went to see the film, "The Shack." I knew the film couldn't capture all the elements of William Young's bestseller, but I was hoping it would remain true to the basic story line. I was not disappointed. The director dealt with the heavy emotional content with sensitivity and creativity adding humor at times for relief. The garden scenes were especially beautiful as was the 'field of souls' scene. For me, the theological turning point of the film occurred in the cave where Mack encountered the personification of Wisdom, aka Sophia.

Sophia introduces the scene as a time of judgment. Mack is preparing for the worst when Sophia explains that Mack is not to be judged, but rather that he is to become the judge, a role in which he is quite familiar. She asks Mack to take the judge's seat. She lists people who should be judged for greed, abuse, and for causing the suffering of others. Mack declares they should be condemned.

Then she mentions the man who murdered Missy. Mack screams, "Yes! Damn him to hell!" Sophia responds, "What about his father, the man who twisted his son into a terror, what about him?" Mack responds, "Yes, him too!"

"How far do we go back, Mackenzie? The legacy of brokenness goes all the way back to Adam, what about him? But why stop there? What about God? God started this whole thing. Is God to blame?" The woman was unrelenting. "Isn't this where you are stuck Mackenzie? Isn't this what fuels The Great Sadness? That God cannot be trusted? Surely, a father like you can judge the Father!"

Sophia continues. "Isn't that your just complaint, Mackenzie? That God has failed you, that he failed Missy? That before the Creation, God knew that one day your Missy would be brutalized, and still he created? And then he allowed that twisted soul to snatch her from your loving arms when he had the power to stop him. Isn't God to blame, Mackenzie?" In a louder voice Mack responds to her. "Yes! God is to blame!"

Sophia says, "If you are able to judge God so easily, then you certainly can judge the world." Images of Mack's two children appear. "You must choose one of your children to spend eternity in God's new heaven and new earth, but only one. The other child will spend eternity in hell." In disbelief Mack, responds, "What?" He couldn't believe what he was hearing.

Sophia presses on, "Mackenzie, I am only asking you to do something that you believe God does. You are the judge. Choose!"

Mack resists, "I don't want to be the judge, I can't do this. I...will...not...do...this!" Sophia whispers, "You must."

Mack screams, "I can't. I can't. I won't!" Finally he looked at her, pleading with his eyes. "Take me instead. If someone needs to be tortured for eternity, I'll go in their place. Please let me go for my children, please, I would be happy to... Please, I am begging you."

Sophia declares, "Mackenzie...now you sound like Jesus. That is how Jesus loves. And now you know Papa's heart," she added, "who loves all his children perfectly."

Seeking the Heart of God, *Pastor Randy*

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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

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**



Thank You!

This past week we made deliveries to both hospitals, Mercy Flights, and two different fire stations. All appreciated the donations. One of the hospitals told us they liked our donations best because they were always clean and in "new condition". We also received a thank you from Mercy Flights for our donation.

Thank you to all who donate to this wonderful ministry. We are now in need of some more animals to get ready to give out so if any of you feel so inclined we would appreciate it.

Marilyn Brummett, Teddy Bear Ministry

Dear Eastwood,

I wish that we could sit down for a good visit, so I could share with you some wonderful stories of the Ranchers at Rainbow Acres. Over the next few months, I'll try to share with you a few.

On the surface, David looks just like a regular guy, his disabilities are invisible. He is handsome, laid back, and comfortable with himself. David works hard, he holds two jobs; one at Cliff Castle Lodge in Camp Verde on the Banquet Services staff, and one at Rainbow Acres in the Palmer Community Center as a member of the Kitchen Crew. This same Kitchen Crew, led by Chef April Palmer, won the Golden Plate Award from the Yavapai County Health Department. This designation resulted from a lot of hard work by David and his co-workers to keep the kitchen clean and follow the guidelines set forth by the Count.

In January, Cliff Castle Lodge recognized David for 15 years of loyal service in Banquet Services. He didn't just get a plaque and a hand shake, they gave him a wonderful monetary reward, too! They recognize a good employee when they see one; this is a very admirable accomplishment! David contributes a portion of his earnings to pay for his living expenses here at Rainbow. The ability to personally contribute is a source of personal pride and achievement.

As with every visit, I'd thank you for the compassionate and loving support you show for "our hard working Ranchers" at Rainbow Acres with each gift you give. May God bless you!

Thank you for being a Partner in Missions and Ministry with Rainbow!

For the Ranchers,

Gary W. Wagner
President & CEO



Thanks and Praise (3/5)

Praise God for a successful surgery! (Katy Ceglia)

This is probably my last Sunday with you. Thank you for being such a wonderful, caring fellowship. As I leave I'll take a little bit of each of you with me. God bless all of you. (Dorothy Noyes)

Great Sermon.

Great song – The Cross. Great, meaningful sermon. Thank you.

To My Eastwood Family,

What a nice surprise to get the lovely bag of goodies and the visit from Karen! So thoughtful. Shouldn't be sharing with my diabetic mother, but only giving her an occasional treat.

So nice to be remembered in this way. Miss everyone.

Mary Lewis.

Eastwood Baptist Church,

Thank you for everything you do to help us reach people with the Good News of the Gospel.

If you have any questions about our ministry or if we could help you in any way, please don't hesitate to ask.

Jason Bull
Executive Director
Medford Gospel Mission

Eastwood Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of clothing for the Kelly Shelter.

Our Rogue Retreat staff and board are thankful to be a part of the work we do. We are directly influencing the lives of 122 adults/children through our various programs. We see minor miracles happen almost daily as people are getting their lives back together. These miracles are for things like getting birth certificates, licenses, jobs, children back, debts erased, schooling and much more.

I thank you for your continued interest and giving. Together we are making a difference.

Sincerely,
Chad McComas, Ex. Director
Rogue Retreat

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

Dear Eastwood,

On behalf of the students, faculty and trustees of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, I want to acknowledge the generous donations made during 2016 from Eastwood Baptist Church. This support is a fine source of encouragement as we seek to be faithful to our call to create a laboratory for building communities of Christian hope, justice and reconciliation. Above all, gifts like yours offer direct support to our students whose ministry holds such promise.

As we enter a new year in the life of our seminary, we look forward to another year of growth and opportunity. We are humbled and grateful to have Eastwood Baptist Church as a partner in this critical mission of providing leadership for service to God's work on earth.

In gratitude,

Nick Carter
President for the Interim
American Baptist Seminary of the West

LENT

Published on March 1st, 2017
by ABCUSA

Lenten Reflections: First Sunday of Lent

The Bottom Of My List

“I was in prison, and you visited me.” (Matt 25:37)

One year, when I was serving as a pastor, I decided that instead of “giving up” something for Lent, I would “take up” something. I made a commitment to give extra attention to the ministry tasks that seemed to fall to the bottom of my “to-do” list, and spend some time in reflection and prayer about those “chores” and my attitude toward them.

One of those tasks was visiting a man from my church who was serving a significant prison sentence. In general, I disliked visiting the prison, which was almost an hour away. The visiting hours and rules were very strict, and by the time I went through all of the security processes, an entire afternoon would be gone.

But this situation went beyond my general lack of enthusiasm for prison visits. This man had committed a particularly repulsive crime. Without getting into details, let me just say that it “hooked” me as a pastor and as a mother. I went and visited him three times that Lent (the maximum allowed). It was an act of cold-blooded Christian obedience.

Those visits affected me spiritually. Not because they “made me feel good”, which they didn’t. But rather, they made me look into a dark corner of my soul. That place where my judgmental spirit lives, that mean little voice whispering things like, “No one will blame you if you don’t go” (probably true) and “These visits mean nothing to him” (possibly true). And underneath it all, the ugliest one of all: “This man doesn’t deserve grace and mercy.”

There it is: the great truth of the solemn season of Lent. We are all recipients of a grace we do not deserve, and cannot earn. Yet we set aside this time to sweep out those dark corners of our soul, and face up to what we find there.

Rev. Mary Day Miller

Executive Minister, The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

Save the Date! Mother Daughter Tea - May 6th

Ladies!

Save the date! On **May 6th**, **My linda 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!



Easter at Eastwood

2017 Holy Week activities



Breakfast in the Koinonia Building at 9:00 am.



April 13th

Our Maundy Thursday Service will begin in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

Dinner will take place in the Koinonia Building at 7:00 pm. There will be a presentation entitled: "Lead Me to the Rock"



Easter – Resurrection Celebration

Baptisms in morning worship.

What a time of rejoicing!

George Barna states that 47% of unchurched people would come, if they were simply invited. Imagine, if you had two friends who do not attend church and you invite them to worship on Easter, odds are that one of them would come, simply based upon your invitation.



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.

Sunday, March 19th

A Musical Worship Service in the Celtic tradition.
Linda Tripp and the Worship Team.

Fellowship Dinners

Wednesday evening fellowship dinners will continue each Wednesday through the month of March as well as April 5th. Be sure to sign up on your Communication Cards or call the Church Office.

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 - (3/5 - 3/11)

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan!
 For it is written: 'worship the Lord your God,
 and serve him only.'"

Matthew 4: 10

New Address

Dorothy Noyes
 5068 4th Place N.
 Keizer, OR 97303



Eastwood Beacon

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **March 22, 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 21, 2016**.

Email sbecker@ebcmedford.org

This Beacon will 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.

March 12, 2017

SUNDAY, March 12th

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching	10:30
New Members Class	12:00

MONDAY, March 13th

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

TUESDAY, March 14th

Men's Bible Study	Noon
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WEDNESDAY, March 15th

Staff Meeting	11:00
Fellowship Dinner	5:15
Journey to the Cross Prayer Service (Special Guest- Harpist Sarah Lavender)	6:00
Choir Practice	7:15

THURSDAY, March 16th

Builders' Social	9:00
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SATURDAY, March 18th

Women's Fellowship Breakfast	9:30
Uke Practice	10:00

March 19, 2017

SUNDAY, March 19th - Service of Celtic Music

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Linda Tripp coordinating Music	10:30

MONDAY, March 20th

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

TUESDAY, March 21st

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

WEDNESDAY, March 22nd

Staff Meeting	11:00
Fellowship Dinner	5:15
Journey to the Cross Prayer Service	6:00
Choir Practice	7:15

THURSDAY, March 23rd

Knitting/Crocheting	3:30
Deacon's Business Meeting	5:30

FRIDAY, March 24th

SATURDAY, March 25th

Uke Practice	10:00
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