



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.

May 3, 2017

Law Abiding Christian or Spirit-Led Follower of Christ

*But the fruit of the Spirit is ... Against such things there is no law.
(Galatians 5: 22-23)*

I was discussing matters of faith and practice with a young freshman from St. Mary's High School when the topic arose of faith requirements in the Baptist tradition. I explained that there are great variations among the many kinds of Baptists. Even at Eastwood there are variations in belief, but the core belief and profession that "Jesus is Lord" is central to our life together. I told him the Bible is our sole source of understanding and knowing Jesus, but added that there are many interpretations of the Bible within the church.

He spoke of the different interpretations he had encountered, some of which imposed faith requirements – from dress codes, to gender roles, to affirming certain end-time theories. To run afoul of those interpretations of the scripture at times placed him (according to some) 'beyond the pale' of Christian faith.

I thought, "Isn't this true?" As we build our traditions and practices of faith from interpretations of the scripture, they often become rigid and legalistic. I was surprised once when a seminary professor, confronted with guitars in worship, stated categorically that the only acceptable instrument for worship was the organ and then it should only play Bach or Beethoven.

As our interview continued, I discussed the importance of the Holy Spirit in interpreting (bringing to life) the scriptures and our understanding of the things of God.

Then we happened upon a phrase: "the law-abiding" Christian and contrasted it with another phrase "the Spirit-Led" follower of Christ. I remembered Paul's admonishing the church to be cautious of trying to be justified by law and becoming alienated from Christ; ... adding, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love." (5:4, 5:6).

May you continue to be led by the Spirit of the Living God!

Pastor Miller

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EASTWOOD STAFF

Randolph T. Miller

Pastor

Sharon Dady

Choir Director

Linda Trlpp

Accompanist

Sue Becker

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Kaltlyn Brunson

Nursery Attendant



Mission Giving Opportunity - May 2017

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Support for Families and Individuals in Need in 2016

- Homeless shelter - Emphasis is on emergency needs of parents with children.
- Hot lunches and groceries - The dining room provided 58,200 hot lunches, served Monday through Saturday. The pantry supplies bagged groceries on the third and fourth Fridays of each month. We distributed 7,600 sacks of groceries, a 4-day supply in each sack, to over 11,525 adults and children. We are also members of the Medford Food Project.
- Clothing, bedding and household necessities - Donations to our Thrift Store enable us to provide these items to the needy. The Store also provides low cost, quality goods to area families. Over 4,850 people were served by the Thrift Store.
- School and medical supplies - 3,500 sets of school supplies were given to K through 12 school children.
- Advocacy/social service support - 18 trained counselors helped 12,650 individuals with job training, utility bills, rental assistance, shelter and other necessities. Designed to give people a "hand-up, not just a hand-out".
- Free dental care and medical screening - Monday morning clinics conducted on-site.

Home visits - 1,955 individuals visited in Ashland, Talent, Central Point, Medford and other locations in Jackson County.

We are dedicated to turning no individual in need away. In addition, we often receive referrals from other community agencies who are unable to help.

Our facilities consist of four buildings on nearly four acres of land:

- The **Thrift Store** sells donated items to the public and provides free clothing, household necessities and furniture to those in need, using a voucher system.
- The **main building** contains our Emergency Family Shelter, Kitchen, Dining Room, Social Services, Food Pantry, and administrative offices. Attached to this building is the **Urban Rest Stop** which includes a waiting room, shower and laundry area.
- Two **warehouse buildings** are used to store furniture, food pallets, school supplies, and seasonal items needed for the store.

Bottles for Loose Change are located on the Missions Table

Joan Avery
Missions Deacon

Thanks and Praise (4/30)

Praise God! No tumors for Jerry Lektorich- MRI clear!

Wonderful sermon, as always. We are so blessed.

Our musical talent is Christ inspired.

Wonderful sermon.

Great message about God's love (Marilyn Brummett)

Amazing Grace is a beautiful song. It was a song at Bryan's memorial. Remember Bryan Lektorich 1985 - 2009.

Thank You!

I would like to thank Merle Neufeld for all the work he does for the church. I really appreciate all that he does.

Gratefully,
Sam Angulo

Knitting & Crocheting Group

The knitting & crocheting group will meet on Wednesdays, May 11th and 25th at 3:30 pm.



Fruit of the Spirit Sunday School Class 9:15 in the Walker Room New People are Always Welcome

Sunday, May 7th - Peace
Sunday, May 14th - Joy

**A great deal of good can be done
in the world if one is not too
careful who gets the credit.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*So then, whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you may do,
do all for the honor and glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10: 31 AMP

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

Samuel Strom, Army

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

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**



An Easter Assault

Easter Sunday in Kikongo was loud...more than normal loud. Whistles blew and horns blasted, people yelled out cheers, children went up and down the aisles of the church and crowded the windows and doorways. Katrina and I watched from outside because we literally wouldn't fit in the building by the time we arrived! Two people were trying to keep a semblance of order by shooshing others and telling them to sit down, but this was a losing battle for them. It was assaulting to our western ways of proper meetings. But maybe Easter Sunday needs to look more like revelry and less like a lecture. Maybe we need more dancing and whistles and terribly loud music. Church today in this small village was a celebration, a party, I mean what better way to shout that Jesus is alive.

The story of the resurrection is a lot like today with its own assault of 1st century culture. To begin with it was the Messiah who died rather than doing the killing. A criminal was the first to arrive in "paradise", not a parishioner. And it was women who first preached the gospel of a risen LORD, not men.

Every part of this story is counter-cultural and backwards. Men were supposed to be the heroes, the righteous go to heaven and the Messiah was supposed to do some murdering of Israel's Roman occupants.

In a culture where power is worshiped and weakness was equated with evil, a God who chooses to die so that his enemies may live makes no sense. Even today in the U.S. one can see that power is sought after more so than self-sacrifice. For evidence of this think about why the World's largest military is boasting of getting larger while it simultaneously brags of cutting support to its poorest denizens all the while to the cheers of so many in the Church. If there is one thing the current political system shows the rest of the world, it is that we are more worried about being on the side of power than on the side of meekness, gentleness and humility. Again, I have to chalk this one up to God's way of not making sense to many people both in the Church and those outside.

In a culture where women were marginalized, God chose to first reveal his resurrected self to them ordaining them as the first preachers of the Gospel. I find this to be a bigger deal than we make of it. It was women who chose to go to the grave where Roman guards were supposed to be on post while the men remained hidden away. Our life in Congo has brought new light to this passage and made it clear that I too would have been hiding with all the other men.

Congo has taught me a lot about avoiding soldiers, police, and government officials. Really, anybody with power of any kind often means trouble for us in one way or another. I often plan travel and errands around the ability to avoid these people. I ran in to a local police chief early on in a nearby village. He smelled of alcohol and demanded that I come to the "station" for questioning. Fortunately, my friend told him that that wasn't going to happen and if he needed to talk with me, he must first talk with that village pastor. This is the proper protocol for such a request. We then just drove off leaving him behind. I try to avoid these confrontations like the plague, so had I been there when the women decided to take perfume to the tomb, all the while knowing Roman guards were standing watch, there is no way I would have the courage to go to Jesus' tomb just to make a dead corpse smell better. But those women did. They were strong and courageous when no man was. The men were hiding and had just denied even knowing Jesus, but the women stood with the crowd and wept openly while the crowd and guards mocked Jesus.

So, today, be like the women, be like the Congolese, Live courageously in the face of the principalities of this dark world. Don't be scared to look improper as you celebrate the Risen Lord. Let him assault your preconceived notions of what is proper in hopes of learning what is true.

Hope is Grounded in and Anticipates Things not Seen

Training in Christian hope doesn't start with results. It starts with remembering. Whenever we go to the table of bread and wine to receive God's gifts or open the Bible and read together, we are drawn into a vision of God's "new thing," which does not hold hope hostage to the rules of cause and effect.

The remarkably different lives of the cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11 were not grounded in the visible, but in the unseen. They had concrete vision of beyond: "By faith our ancestors our ancestors received approval... now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction not seen" (Hebrew 11: 2 NRSV). They were gripped by a vision of "a better country," believing that the way things are is not the way things have to be. These convictions about "things not seen" did not lead these witnesses into complacency but reshaped their very actions and lives as restless "strangers and foreigners on the earth" (vs. 13 NRSV). Risking his reputation, Noah built an ark. Risking his life, Moses fled privilege with Pharaoh, then returned to confront him. Surrendering his homeland, Abraham embarked on a journey to unknown lands. Convictions about "things not seen" inspired actions toward a new identity that were often disturbing to those comfortable with the status quo.

Nelson Mandela's life in jail on Robben Island during the terror of white supremacy is a sign of this new identity within an unseen "better country." Looking back, it seems easy to name the "steps to success" by which people overcame apartheid in South Africa. But after those decades, the Spirit of Grace and acts of hospitality with which Mandela treated his jailers was scandalous. In spite of no apparent change, he lived as if things were already different. Mandela lived as if he and his white captors were already living in a new South Africa.

What makes it worth living as if things have already changed? It's not the guarantee that things will be different now. Injustice may endure for years but we have been seduced and transformed by things hoped for, things not seen. This is the ground of Christian hope.

By Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice
Reconciling All Things Pg. 96 - 97

Women's Brunch & Art Extravaganza!

Saturday, May 6th

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Eastwood Baptist Church Koinonia Building

Come prepared for a "Hands-on" art activity!

Ladies!

Save the date! On **May 6th**, **My linda Baits** will be our speaker/leader at our Women's Brunch and Art Extravaganza. It will be a special time to "connect with creativity through art", a restorative work she does with women around the world. All ages are invited for this event. My linda and her husband, Gary, have been missionaries in Costa Rica. Contact Leslie Miller if you are interested in attending or sign up on your communication cards.



Women's Art Exhibit

On that day, we will have an *Eastwood Women's Art Gallery exhibit*. Bring something (a painting, sewing, woodwork) you've made and would like to have on display! Contact Carol Bath if you would like to display your artwork.

First Place for Health

First Place study: Jesus As My Personal Trainer

A women's Bible study focusing on wellness in every area of life.

Tuesdays, 5:30-7:00 P

For more information, call Jan Blankenship
(541) - 772-7888

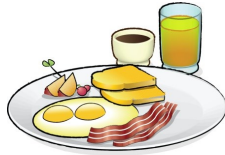
May Cookie & Host/Hostess Sign-ups!

It's time to sign up to bring cookies for our Fellowship hour. The cookie calendar is located on the kiosk closest to the Church Office. We would also love to see some new faces behind the cookie and punch tables. Please call Suzan Darby if you would like to host.



**Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, May 20th - 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

**Youth Pizza Night With the Pastor
Sunday, May 7th at 5 pm**



Please sign up on your Communication Card
Or email Pastor Miller

Fellowship Dinner - May 17th at 5:15 pm

Please Sign up on your Communication Cards
Or Notify the Church Office



Eastwood Beacon

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **May 17, 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, May 16, 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, May 13th**. 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

May 7, 2017

SUNDAY, May 7th - Peace

Prayer in Chapel 8:00
Sunday School 9:15
Communion Worship Service 10:30
Myllinda Baits, Speaking
Pizza Youth Night with the Pastor 5:00

MONDAY, May 8th

Women's Grove Bible Study 10:00
Community Ministries Meeting 4:00
Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, May 9th

Men's Bible Study Noon
First Place 5:30

WEDNESDAY, May 10th

Staff Meeting 11:00
Mid-Week Bible Study 6:00
Choir Practice 7:15

THURSDAY, May 11th

Knitting/Crocheting Group 3:30
Deacons' Agape Meeting 5:30
Worship Committee 6:45

FRIDAY, May 12th

SATURDAY, May 13th
Church Work Party 9:00
Uke Practice 10:00

May 14, 2017

SUNDAY, May 14th - Joy - Mother's Day

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

MONDAY, May 15th

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

TUESDAY, May 16th

Men's Bible Study: 12:00
First Place 5:30
Cub Scouts 6:00

WEDNESDAY, May 17th

Staff Meeting 11:00
Fellowship Dinner 5:15
Mid-Week Bible Study 6:00
Choir Practice 7:15

THURSDAY, May 18th

FRIDAY, May 19th

SATURDAY, May 20th

Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Punky's 10:00