



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.

July 6, 2017

SOUL FREEDOM

SOUL FREEDOM is the historic Baptist affirmation of the inalienable right and responsibility of every person to deal with God without the imposition of creed, the interference of clergy (and/or other religious people), or the intervention of civil government.¹

It was good to be in the company of American Baptists last weekend as we connected in Portland, Oregon for the 2017 Biennial. Representatives from every region of the country; from across every theological and political persuasion; and from every racial group and many world languages gathered to connect with God and practice the Freedoms we enjoy as American Baptists.

There were wonderful times of worship, with inspirational speakers and challenging Bible studies. Missionaries from around the world told their stories and friendships were renewed. Even an informal ukulele group led singing from the main stage on Sunday evening.

Included among the new leadership of American Baptists are Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of the ABC-USA; Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of International Ministries and Dr. James Brenneman, President of the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, CA.

There are great challenges ahead in our ABC life, but God has provided solid and faithful leaders to guide us through these days.

As I reflect upon this gathering, I am again encouraged by the long forgotten and often ignored principles that guide our life together as Baptists. Imagine the notion of "Soul Freedom" being practiced in our conversations where we recognize all people as children of God who are working out their relationship with God.

Imagine agreeing to disagree, and yet still loving and respecting those we disagree with. I am thankful to be part of people who actually listen to each other, without ridiculing, berating, or demonizing them. It was fascinating to be with progressives and conservatives who found a way to talk with one another and to be unified under the name of Christ, even though they read the Bible differently. These are the characteristics of the "classic" Baptists of the 16th century, who were persecuted as minorities and developed the notion of soul freedom.

For them, it was more important to be in right relationship with God and each other, than to hold right doctrine. We could use more of this soul freedom today.

Leslie and I were grateful to represent Eastwood Baptist Church at this gathering.

To God be the Glory,

Pastor Randy

¹Walter B. Shurden, *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*, (Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 1993), 23.

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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



Leading Worship at Eastwood - July 16th, 2017

In 2007, Leslie and Steve moved to Rochester, New York from the Boston area where together they ran The Mozaic Room coffeehouse for eleven years. In 2003, they started recording and performing together as a duo. Their music combines their backgrounds in traditional, country, Americana, and gospel music with their taste for contemporary singer/songwriters. Their performances feature simple but tasteful arrangements of timeless melodies. Steve's guitar is often supplemented by other traditional instruments, but the focus is always on thoughtful lyrics and beautiful harmonies.



In 2011, they wrote the song, "One Great Hour to Share" for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which assists individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. The song was used to promote the offering in churches throughout the country. Congregations have shared videos that the song accompanies as well as sung it in small groups or choirs.

Leslie

Leslie was born in southern California and grew up in the Kansas City, Missouri area. She earned a BFA in Commercial Art from the University of Central Missouri. Although relatively new to the world of folk music, Leslie has been surrounded by music since childhood. Her dad always kept a guitar around, and when he wasn't teaching her how to play a slide version of "Mary Had a Little Lamb", he picked out tunes by Hank Williams and Johnny Cash, among others.

Leslie's introduction to folk music came when she created the artwork for Steve's first CD, *Waiting for the Sun*. She went on to design the packaging for all their CDs, as well as CDs, posters, banners and other artwork for musicians including Brother Sun, Joe Crookston, Guy Davis, and Brooks Williams. In 2003, she stood behind the microphone for the first time to record the vocal tracks for Steve and Leslie's debut album, *Recovered*.

Steve

Steve was born and raised in the Finger Lakes region of New York. He moved to Germany with his parents as a teenager, then returned to the US to complete his schooling. He graduated from Stanford University in 1979 and Princeton Theological School in 1986, where he once accidentally shot Brooke Shields with a rubber band. An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches USA (they are the Baptists who will still talk to you even if you disagree with them!), he currently serves as pastor of the Greece Baptist Church.

He has been involved with music most of his life from childhood lessons (piano and trombone), through years of singing with choral groups, to his midlife debut in folk music. In the mid-90s, Steve performed as one half of the acoustic folk duo Arnold+Gretz, producing four CDs. One of Steve's songs, "My Dad Told Me", was selected as one of five finalists in the 2003 Boston Folk Festival songwriting contest. Another song, "Who Taught These Idiots to Drive?", was featured on NPR's Car Talk radio show and appeared on their compilation CD, *Car Tunes Volume 2: Born Not to Run*.

You can listen to more music by Steve and Leslie at LeslieandSteve.com or on You Tube.

Thanks and Praise (7/2)

Thankful for Wendy and Kyle sharing their music today.

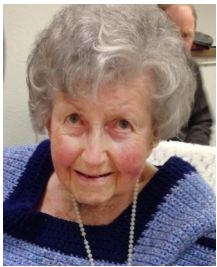
Thank you, Father Joel, for the meaningful communion service.

Praise for Linda's patriotic music Sunday morning.

Missionary Night with the Hwangs Wednesday, August 9th, 5:15 pm

Gordon and LeAnn Hwang, missionaries to Japan, will be here Wednesday, August 9. Dinner will be at 5:15, and their presentation will start at 6. They will be accompanied by Roberta Stephens, a member of their Missionary Partnership Team, and Miss Mizuno, Soshin elementary school teacher. Please sign up on your communications card. If you would be able to host Roberta and Miss Mizuno for that night please let me know.

Joan Avery, Missions Deacon



A Remembrance of Frances Kelly July 9, 2017 During the Worship Service

Pastor's July Schedule

In mid-July, Pastor will be participating in an 8 day silent retreat in Wisconsin. On July 16, Rev. Steve Gretz (Leslie Lee), Pastor of Greece Baptist Church in New York state, will be leading worship and preaching the Good News in song. On July 23, Rev. Fred Grewe, Chaplain, Providence Hospice, will be preaching.

Contact the Office for pastoral care.

July & August 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.



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

Mission Giving Opportunity

In July we will be collecting for the American Baptist Historical Society. They maintain and preserve the official records of ABC/USA and its affiliated mission agencies. This includes International Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Society, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, and American Baptist Women's Ministries. They also hold official records for the Baptist World Alliance and New Baptist Covenant. The challenge now is to begin digitizing these archives, and to archive the digital information that is now coming in. They want to make available to everyone over the Internet the personal papers of more than 500 ministers and missionaries as well as 3500 sets of missionary letters and reports. An archivist has just been hired to manage these collections which include maps, audio visual materials, photographs, rare books, and artifacts.

The newsletter is available on the bulletin board outside the library, if you would like more information.



Published on July 5th, 2017 | by *Bridget Lipin*

A Reflection on the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit

Ken Williams, Interim Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, shared a thoughtful reflection following the Biennial Mission Summit, June 30-July 2, 2017, in Portland, Ore. Read about Williams' time at the Biennial Mission Summit, below:

Baptists, by our very nature – must find our unity in mission. We are not immune to the theological and political divisions of the day. However, our denominational DNA pushes us to join in mission intentionality. In that sense, there was much to celebrate about American Baptist life. The planners used the word “connected” as the guiding theme. Each worship service was dedicated to an aspect of connectedness: Connected to Christ, Connected to Each Other, Connected to the World, Connected in Joy!

This was my 16th Biennial. We've had larger attendance, more well-known speakers, and far more drama in past gatherings. But I don't know that we've had a Biennial that was as foundational as this one. There was a clear sense that we are being prepared for the future. A new leadership team has been assembled – Sharon Koh of International Ministries and Jeffrey Haggray of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies have set a very positive tone for their respective fields of ministry. Louis Barbarin is positioning MMBB Financial Services to adapt to shifts in context. Lee Spitzer, new as General Secretary, has a strong team around him as he settles into the clear call to renew and rededicate our organic connections.

I'm still in the afterglow of Saturday night's worship when an artist (Ronnie Robles) was on stage painting while the flow of the service inspired him. When Melanie Hill, a gospel violinist, played with such conviction, the two artists seemed connected, each feeding the other with unseen, but clearly powerful energy! It was a model for divine connectedness.

I'm pondering with thanksgiving Sharon Koh's invitation to see the whole world as the mission field and to accept diversity as God's gift. Jeff Haggray's sermon on the Body of Christ gave me a renewed sense of that biblical image. I'm challenged by Cheryl Dudley's address to the Baptist Peace Fellowship to know ourselves, the world, and our mission so that we rise above the pettiness and reactivity of the present day and show the love of Christ. I'm convicted by Kathy Longhat's challenge to “stop holding it in” when Christians are clearly called to be larger than the desperate fear of the culture. And, Dan and Sharon Buttry gave us the delightful metaphor of a “peacemaking quilt,” God bringing disparate pieces into a whole...

We have work to do – congregations to renew, pastors to support, quality of life ministries to undertake, and missionaries to send. We need to be connected in a transcendent unity. I'm grateful for Portland.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CAMPAIGN

PROJECT	DONATIONS TO DATE	ACTUAL COST
Window Panels	\$7,200	\$10,495
Sound Booth (Crow's Nest)	\$1,150	\$6,000 - \$9,000
Not Designated	\$500	

The Sunday school rooms are completed except for some painting.

In May the Board of Deacons approved moving forward with both of these projects. Final drawings of the Sound Booth are being completed so that we can acquire two or three firm bids.

We continue to ask for donations, but will pay for the balance out of our General Fund Time Deposit.

Pictures below are examples of what our sound booth could look like:



**Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, July 15th - 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

Electronics Recycling - Extended Date

We will be collecting electronic equipment to be recycled in early September. If you have an old computer tower or laptop you would like to dispose of, bring it to the church prior to **August 2nd** along with **\$5 for each Hard drive** that needs to be pulled and erased.



Additionally, any old keyboards, monitors, printers, Cell phones, VCRs, TV's and DVD players may also be brought to the church for recycling - Free of Charge!



Eastwood Beacon

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **July 20, 2017**. If you have anything you would like put in the *Beacon*, an upcoming event, a function, etc. please **have all copy in the church office by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, July 19, 2017**.

Email sbecker@ebcmedford.org
This Beacon will be mailed.

**Celebration of Life for Muriel Brandenburg
Saturday, July 22nd, 4 PM - Koinonia Building**

The Brandenburg family invites you to take part in a Celebration of Life honoring Muriel Brandenburg.

There will be presentation by Eric Brandenburg and you may share your memories of Mim.

Church Work Day

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



The next scheduled Work Day is **Saturday, July 8th**. 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

July 9, 2017

SUNDAY, July 9th

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching <i>Remembering France Kelly</i>	10:30

MONDAY, July 10th

Boy Scouts	7:00
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TUESDAY, July 11th

Men's Bible Study	Noon
First Place	5:30

WEDNESDAY, July 12th

Staff Meeting	11:00
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THURSDAY, July 13th

FRIDAY, July 14th

SATURDAY, July 15th

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

July 16, 2017

SUNDAY, July 16th

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Music Service with Steve Gretz & Leslie Lee	10:30

MONDAY, July 17th

Boy Scouts	7:00
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TUESDAY, July 18th

Men's Bible Study	Noon
First Place	5:30

WEDNESDAY, July 19th

Staff Meeting	11:00
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THURSDAY, July 20th

FRIDAY, July 21st

Builders' Social	9:00
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SATURDAY, July 22nd

Mim Brandenburg Memorial	4:00
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