



The Eastwood Beacon

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

Grace and Peace to You

In the summer of 1977, I was raised from a watery grave of broken dreams and took the first breath of new life in Christ. From those early moments, I “knew” the tomb was empty and I wanted to “know” this resurrected Christ. In Advent of that year, the Spirit began to tutor me in the Word. Scriptures informed by the Spirit began to shape my faith experience. I resigned my practice as a clinical social worker at a local hospital and enrolled at Northern Baptist Seminary. Over this 40 year span, I have enjoyed 35 years of ministry in the American Baptist family that included four regions, three congregations and a Christian camp. My dear Leslie has been a full partner in this ministry; faithful, energetic, and generous. Mine has been an abundant life.

By the time of our arrival in 2005, Eastwood was undergoing an organizational shift from a staff-led to a member-led congregation. These changes have not been easy, but the people of Eastwood have continued faithfully trusting in God. Our ministry together has been characterized and shaped by grace, mercy, beauty, and reconciliation. Foundational to any ministry is our life in Christ rooted in the regular practice of prayer and worship.

As Leslie and I step away from active pastoral ministry, we enter a season of rest and reflection. It will also be a time of uncovering the next part of this incredible journey. We pray for your continuing prosperity and ministry as a congregation of believers. We have enjoyed life with you. We have learned together, wept together, laughed together, and worshiped God together. We have argued with one another and had our disagreements. We have learned and practiced forgiveness. We have loved one another. God is Good.

Long before I arrived, Eastwood was recognized and honored as one of the leading congregations in the American Baptist family. Better still, God knows Eastwood as a faithful witness and has placed an angel over this household of believers. Your days have always been numbered in the heart of God. Rest there in the heart of God. Wait for the Lord and be of good courage. God is with you.

Years ago, God gave me this prayer of Paul for my time at Eastwood. It is now the prayer I leave with you.

... may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:17 – 21 (NIV)

Thank you dear friends! I have been honored and humbled to serve as your pastor for these years. Fare-thee-well until we stand together in the light of the empty tomb.

In the loving service of Christ,

Randolph Miller, pastor

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EASTWOOD STAFF

Randolph T. Miller

Pastor

Grant Rubln

Youth Director

Sharon Dady

Choir Director

Linda Tripp

Accompanist

Sue Becker

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Kaitlyn Brunson

Nursery Attendant



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.**

Sing Joy to All the World!

A Christmas Celebration

By Lloyd Larson

Performed by the Eastwood Sanctuary Choir



**Greetings from Ed & Miriam Noyes
Lusekele, Democratic Republic of Congo**

We've been busy moving (from Kinshasa) and fixing up the house and yard at Lusekele. We now have greens and a little lettuce from our new garden, as well as manioc greens from the old field we had planted in 2010 or 2011. We might have green beans by the end of the week. Ed and the carpenter team have reroofed half the house. They will work on the other side of the join of the two halves of the house today. The old roofing tiles are being carefully taken off and stored to fix all the other roofs around Lusekele that have leaks and need work, when there is money to do it. And the gardener is building a WC and outdoor shower for them, the workers, and all our visitors who would be uncomfortable with western arrangements. When the roofing is done, we have repainting to do before we put the house in full order. The leaks have caused some of the paint to peel in various spots.

Lusekele has its first interns of the year, fortunately a small and positive group. The second semester we can be overrun with as many as 70 high school interns at a time, coming without notice, for some practical experience to supplement their ag or vet studies. It is quite a challenge, especially now that we have such a small staff and small program. Last semester Lusekele paid a couple of our veteran people who Ed had been forced to lay off, to teach and supervise the interns, from the fees they brought with them. The problem is that there is apparently no other center in this province that comes close to meeting the requirements laid down by the ministry of education for such internships in ag and veterinary majors, despite our desperate condition. We're stashing interns anywhere we can because a local primary school has taken over our seminar building, with its sleeping rooms and bunk beds. There are a few problems to fix here...

We have little electricity at the house until we can put our solar panels back up and rehabilitate the whole system - we're using little handheld solar lights - Luci Lights - a lot in the meantime. We no longer have an Internet connection at the house and must do it at the center. The electrical system at the center has been jury-rigged by amateurs too much and needs reworking, and Internet for some reason is difficult there. And telephone coverage is often limited or down. Little by little we'll get it working or learn how to work around the problems.

But it is lovely being back. It is nice to be with these people again with whom we have shared so much history. It is good to be working with agriculture again, with its resonance with the premordial tasks that God gave humans in Genesis. It is good to be integrated back in this church with these Christians. And I have truly missed the daily morning prayers, with their constant challenge to think about our faith. Nothing in Kinshasa has replaced that in feeding our spiritual lives. We, as missionaries experienced in this locale can be helpful counselors to Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice as newer missionaries here, and reinforce the other Vanga missionaries. And there are certain problems with the literacy work in this area which my presence will help.

Blessings!

Miriam

Wishing each of your a blessed Christmas celebration and New 2018.

The Noyes Mission Partnership Team

Thanks and Praise

Thank You!

I wish to thank you for the check we received from the Eastwood Baptist Church Deacon fund.

What a wonderful gift to the least of these.

Merry Christmas!

Sandy Frey Coordinator - Sack Lunches
For the Homeless - 1st Presbyterian Church

Dear Eastwood Baptist Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the work of the Kelly Shelter.

“Hope is standing in the dark and looking out to the light.” I heard this definition of hope recently and immediately saw how it fits the work of The Kelly Shelter.

When a person is homeless there is little hope! How can you get out of the pit you’ve fallen into? When someone comes along and says there is a way out...that is light coming into one’s darkness.

The Kelly Shelter gives hope to 50 people a night for three months during the coldest part of the year. Just giving a person a warm place to sleep, use of a restroom and food to eat is great. But just getting into the Kelly Shelter isn’t the goal. Rogue Retreat’s goal is to get a chance to help each person live a better life. It is our case management that gives each person a “light bulb” experience.

This year we are adding the opportunity for each Kelly Shelter participant to have access to case management. We hope to find ways to get participants into other programs after March 31 to keep them off the streets or connect them to receiving services to enrich their lives and their futures.

Last year we had at least two women in their 80’s in the shelter. On March 31 we had to shut our doors and put these women back on the streets. I don’t want that to happen this year! With case management we can find solutions.

That why you donate to The Kelly Shelter: to make a difference. With each life given “Hope” who sees the light your gifts are paying off!

Grateful,

Chad McComas
Executive Director

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

Tyler Powell, Marines

Tiffany Hart, Air Force

Trevor Swanson, Air Force

Samuel Strom, Army

Eric Lektorich, Army National Guard

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.

Tim & Mary Dady serving in Latvia

To the Congregation of Eastwood Baptist Church:

Thank you all so much for your generous donation to Maslow Project!

We are so very thankful for your continuing support of our work with homeless youth and families here in Jackson and Josephine Count.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas!

Karen Phillips - Development Director
Maslow Project

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who have been so helpful around the office and the church this past year. Your help and fellowship has meant so much to me. Special thanks to: Allan Campbell, Carolyn Dutton, Sandy and Sue Shaw, Vern Petermeyer, Carolyn Barnhill, Susie Skaggs, Hugh and Barbara Barnhill and Skip Senften.

Blessings to you at this Season of Christmas.

Sue Becker, Church Secretary

Thanks to all who contributed hats and scarves to the Maslow project. We were able to deliver 29 hats and 15 scarves to help keep people from getting cold.

Joan Avery

January 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

December 31 New Year's Eve 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Retirement Dinner for Pastor Miller	1 New Year's Day	2 Noon - Men's Bible Study	3 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Choir Practice	4 1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East	5	6
7 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. George Nye	8 10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7 :00 Boys Scouts	9 Noon - Men's Bible Study	10 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Choir Practice	11 5:30 Deacons' Agape Meeting	12	13
14 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. George Nye	15 10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7 :00 Boys Scouts	16 Noon - Men's Bible Study	17 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Choir Practice	18	19 9:00 Builders' Social	20 9:30 Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Punky's
21 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Steve Bills Annual Meeting Following the Worship Service	22 10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7 :00 Boys Scouts	23 Noon - Men's Bible Study	24 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Choir Practice	25 5:30 Deacons' Business Meeting	26	27
28 8:00 Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Rev. Michael Saylor	29 10:00 Women's Grove Bible Study 7 :00 Boys Scouts	30 Noon - Men's Bible Study	31 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Choir Practice	February 1 1:00 Fellowship Support at New Far East	February 2	February 3

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4-Jan	Korey Mitchell
5-Jan	Aleena Austin
6-Jan	Katy Ceglia
6-Jan	Julie Kinsman
6-Jan	William Sayler
8-Jan	Jacqueline Graber
10-Jan	Tyler Hunter
10-Jan	Jerry Lektorich
10-Jan	Gene Versteeg
11-Jan	Rosalie Neufeld
11-Jan	Ada Senften
12-Jan	Kaylee Tarrant
15-Jan	Chris Daniel
15-Jan	Allyson Nottingham
16-Jan	Lois Olstad
18-Jan	Marybeth Gresham
19-Jan	Suzan Darby
20-Jan	Eldon Allsup
20-Jan	Carol Bath
22-Jan	Kamryn Brunson
22-Jan	Melba McIntyre
22-Jan	Matthew Nottingham
22-Jan	Tyler VanDyke
23-Jan	Justin Cawthorne
23-Jan	Jonathan Cawthorne
24-Jan	Heather Campbell
24-Jan	Miranda Lektorich
25-Jan	Krystal VanDyke
25-Jan	Kevin VanDyke
28-Jan	Lindy Boyersmith
28-Jan	Kyle Mitchell
29-Jan	Merle Neufeld
30-Jan	Joseph Yungen
31-Jan	Eric Lektorich

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

22-Jan Joan & Richard Avery

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

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2017

Support RMMO

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God's service. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year.

We hope congregations will be inspired by the theme this year, *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, 'But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.' Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Please join us in honoring God's committed servants by donating to RMMO.

Thank you for your support.

Eastwood Survey - 2017

Included with this Beacon is a survey that the leadership of Eastwood is requesting that the members of our congregation reflect upon and complete.

Please return the completed survey to the church before the Deacon Agape Meeting of January 11th. The Deacons will use your thoughts, feelings and hopes as they plan for our future.



In Memory of

John Yungen

At home in the body: December 30, 1921
At home with the Lord: December 16, 2017

**Memorial Service to be held at Eastwood Baptist Church
Wednesday, December 27th at 10:30 a.m.**

**Women of Eastwood Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, January 20th - 9:30 a.m.**

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

**Potluck Retirement Dinner and Roast
Of Pastor Miller
Sunday, December 31st
Following the Worship Service**

Your fellowship committee is planning a Retirement Dinner and Roast for Pastor Miller. Come prepared with your stories! The Committee will provide Ham and Dessert. You are asked to bring either a side dish or salad.



**Please Sign Up on your Communication Card.
Or Call the Church Office.**



Eastwood Beacon

The next issue of *The Beacon* will be **January 10th, 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, January 9th, 2017**.

Email sbecker@ebcmedford.org
This Beacon will not be mailed.

2018 Church Directories

A Draft copy of the 2018 Church Directory is at the Welcome Center. Please make any corrections to addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, or any other information that is in error. New Church Directories will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 21st.

2018 Budget

The 2018 Budget has been posted on the kiosk closest to the Church Office.

2018 Calendars

A gift to you of a calendar for the coming year will be available toward the end of December.

December 24, 2017

SUNDAY, December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching	10:30
Christmas Candlelight Service	7:00

MONDAY, December 25th - Christmas Day

TUESDAY, December 26th

Office Closed
Men's Luncheon 12:00

WEDNESDAY, December 27th

Memorial Service - John Yungen 10:30

THURSDAY, December 28th

FRIDAY, December 29th

Builder's Social 9:00

SATURDAY, December 30th

December 31, 2017

SUNDAY, December 31st - New Year's Eve

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service, Pastor Miller, preaching	10:30
Retirement Dinner for Pastor Miller	12:00

MONDAY, January 1st - New Year's Day

TUESDAY January 2nd

Men's Bible Study Noon

WEDNESDAY, January 3rd

Staff Meeting	11:00
Choir Practice	7:15

THURSDAY, January 4th

Fellowship Support at New Far East 1:00

FRIDAY, January 5th

SATURDAY, January 6th

PONDER ANEW, WHAT THE ALMIGHTY CAN DO...

Eastwood Survey, December, 2017

Please return to the church by January 11th, 2018

For a people of faith, transitional times are always opportunities to reflect upon what God has done in the past and the present, and “to ponder anew what the Almighty can do.” As leaders of Eastwood, we invite you to consider the following questions about our past, present and future:

In the past, we have seen the hand of God moving in and through Eastwood in the following ways: Describe some of the qualities you have witnessed.

Other qualities:

From your perspective, how is God presently working in (and through) the Eastwood community of faith (what are the strengths of Eastwood today)?

Other qualities

Honoring how God has moved in our lives in the past and present, how might God be shaping our lives in the future. Where is God taking us next? What are your dreams for Eastwood?

Other thoughts

In regards to our life together as a congregation, how is God calling you anew to the ministry of Eastwood? What excites you about God's immediate future for Eastwood?

Other hopes and dreams you would like to share with Eastwood's leadership.

_____ signed _____ date

(not required)