

Eastwood Life



Eastwood Baptist Church Newsletter

Summer 2018

“CONNECTING HEARTS & HANDS”

PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS

What would we look like without a Church Secretary?

Why would you even consider it?

Marybelle stepped down in June and by the time you get this letter, we will have gone 2-3 weeks without one. With cell phones, email, and technology, many tasks are done at home.

Who will do the secretary's job?

The pastor composes the bulletin and newsletter already. Volunteers can copy, assemble, and fold. Pastoral needs usually go to the pastor's cell phone number. Email is the primary means of communication and is usually handled by the pastor. The phone answering machine is checked each day.

Will anyone be in the building?

Pastor and Facilities Manager Steve are in the church most mornings. Daycare is downstairs. People in the congregation have access to the building and appointments can be made. Volunteers will come some weekdays.

Has this been done before?

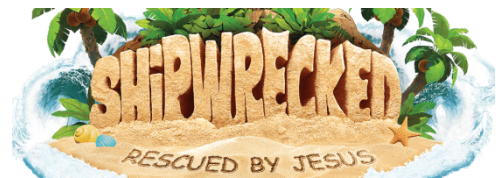
More churches are moving in this direction.

Why do it in the first place?

If the position is not necessary, we could use the salary to hire part time ministry staff to help with new initiatives in Adult Ed.

What if it doesn't work?

We will learn this summer how and if it can work at Eastwood. If it doesn't work, we would hire a new secretary for the Fall.



SHIPWRECKED VBS

August 6-9, 2018 Monday –
Thursday Evenings beginning at
5:30pm with dinner.

Here's what you can do!

- Be a crew leader
- Help in the kitchen
- Help with crafts or games
- Contribute food or supplies
by checking the board.

VBS Training Event – July 29th
following worship. It will be fun
and food will be involved.

THANK YOU

For your continued financial
support during the summer
months of leisure!



Summer 9:30am WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Some Facts You Didn't Know About the 10 COMMANDMENTS

- Jews and Christians number the commandments differently. The reason is that “Ten Commandments” in the original Hebrew literally reads “Ten Statements.” Therefore, Jews count the first statement, which is “I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” as the first
- Without God, the Ten Commandments, and morality in general, is just a list of arbitrary rules. Unless there is a Higher Authority (God) behind the Ten Commandments, all right and wrong are just personal opinion.
- The Third Commandment, “Thou shalt not *take* the Lord’s name in vain,” is often interpreted as saying something like “Oh my God!” However, the Hebraic translation literally reads, “Thou shalt not *carry* the Lord’s name in vain,” meaning do not commit evil in God’s name.
- The Fourth Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day," uplifts mankind more than any other commandment. For most of history, life consisted overwhelmingly of work, and human beings were essentially beasts of burden. This commandment changed that by insisting that people stop working one day out of seven to rest, strengthen relationships, and enjoy life.
- The Ten Commandments are not a list of rules. The commandments prove that God wants mankind to be free: "I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, *out of the house of bondage.*" Following the commandments actually frees us from the terrible consequences of sin, making our lives *better.* - **Dennis Prager**

July 1	COMMUNION SUNDAY	9:30am Worship Begins	
July 8	WORSHIP at EASTWOOD BAPTIST with REFORMED CHURCH		
	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandments 1-4		Exodus 20:1-11
July 15	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment Honor Father & Mother		Exodus 20:12
July 22	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment Murder		Exodus 20:13
July 29	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment Adultery		Exodus 20:14
Aug 5	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment Steal Shared Communion with the Karen Congregation		Exodus 20:15
Aug 12	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment False Testimony – Lying		Exodus 20:16
Aug 19	MORE THAN COMMANDMENTS: Commandment Coveting		Exodus 20:17
Aug 26	THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT:		Matthew 22:36-40
Sept 2	AT REFORMED CHURCH with Eastwood Baptist – 10am Combined Choir (Located on Teal Ave near the corner of James St.)		Labor Day Weekend



SUMMER REGIONAL OFFERING

To Support the Staff and Ministry of the American Baptist Churches of New York State

The Region, like your congregation, cares about ministry. The Region wants to strengthen and equip churches by providing training and opportunities for mission, both participation and support. For people to benefit from the ministry of your church, they must avail themselves of the opportunities for support and care you provide. The same is true of the Region. For churches to benefit from the Region, they must take advantage of the opportunities we provide. We train pastors and lay people for leadership in the church. We provide opportunities for mission experiences; we just completed the trip to Rwanda and are making preparations for the mission trip to Niagara Falls in July 2018. We provide pastoral care to pastors. We walk with churches through pastoral transition. We provide guidance as churches work through conflict and administrative and building issues. We support churches as they work on areas of mission, vision, and stewardship. These are a few of the ways we strengthen local congregations. Contact the Region about ways we might enrich the life of your congregation. For people to benefit from your church's commitment

WHAT is the Region Offering? And WHY is it important?

The Region Offering is an annual offering that gives churches and individuals a chance to support the mission and ministries of American Baptist Churches of New York State. 100% of the funds stay right here in New York State!



WHERE are these Staff?

Actually, their offices are next door to our church, upstairs in the Hobart House.

- Executive Minister, Rev. Jim Kelsey
- Administrative Secretary, Mary Schwarz
- Christy Saiu, Bookkeeper
- Assoc. Executive Minister, Jerrod Huguenot works out of his office in the Albany area.

You may make a gift any time this summer

SUMMER AT EASTWOOD BAPTIST

The summer months are an opportunity for us to do things we cannot do the rest of the year. We move our worship hour to 9:30am. We begin with songs of praise. Children are welcome to stay in worship and activity bags are given out after the Children's Story each Sunday. The youngest children are welcome on the nursery.

OUR SISTER CHURCH PROGRAM UPDATE -

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for registering with our Sister Church Initiative. I am in Puerto Rico this week seeking to encourage our pastoral leaders and churches and to encourage more of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters to sign up. Right now we have 25 sister churches in Puerto Rico and over 50 sister churches on the mainland signed up. This is an exciting start to the program. Please keep in prayer my efforts this week to drum up more sister churches in Puerto Rico.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Walden
Associate General Secretary for Congregational and Pastoral Effectiveness

OUR COMPASSION CHILD - WALDINE'S RECENT LETTER

Dear Eastwood

I feel very happy today to write you this letter. How is it going in your area? As for me, I am doing very well, thanks to God. My whole family is doing well. I am in grade 6 review year. My church is going to hold a harvest thanksgiving party on March 25th, 2018. My choir is going to perform in the party. I hope to have a thanksgiving with Jesus. Thank you very much for all your support to me through my schooling and the project. I ask you to pray to God to permit me to have success in school. I am also praying to God to keep protecting you.



TRANSITIONS

- **MINISTRY - Bonnie Miner Seitz & Gary Baker** are teaming up to give Bonnie an opportunity to do some summer ministry at the Meridian Baptist Church.
- **NEW LIFE - Emery Olivia Rasmussen** - was born May 30th to Sasha and Landon Rasmussen (and grandparents Amy & Garth Cadiz)
- **NEW MEMBERS BY BAPTISM**
 - **Samuel Sampson**
 - **Gabrielle Kuersteiner**
- **STEPPING DOWN - Marybelle Rivera** resigned as Administrative Secretary June 11th
- **MARRIAGE – John Walczyk and Bing He** were married June 30, 2018
- **GRADUATION – Durban Seymour** graduated from the Berkshire Farms High School program in Rochester this June.
- **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY – Rev. Mary Lou Green** celebrated 35 years of ordination in June

What is a Pastoral Relations Committee?

A Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee, generally of three to five persons. It meets regularly with the pastor bringing the congregation's concerns. It also advocates for the pastor's leadership in the church. By facilitating communication between the pastor and the congregation, the committee helps build a solid base for effective witness and mission in the congregation, the community and the world.



What is the Committee's Role?

- **Understanding the Role of Ministry** – Committee members should know the church's objectives and the role of the laity and pastoral staff. Knowing the pastor as preacher, teacher, counselor, worship leader, visitor and person will enhance the effectiveness of the committee's mission. **NOTE:** *Currently, we operate without a job description for the pastor.*
- **Provide a Vital Communication Link Between the Pastor, Staff and Congregation** – A primary objective of the committee is to promote healthy dialogue between the congregation and the pastor and staff. **NOTE:** *This would give the congregation specific people to bring concerns.*
- **Deal with Conflict** – While the congregation and pastor seek to foster understanding and prevent unnecessary conflict, discord may arise. The committee can serve as a reconciler and can provide a great service to the congregation by learning and teaching the art of successful negotiating. **NOTE:** *We are aware of no current conflicts.*
- **Review Compensation Annually for the Pastor** – Every pastor and staff person will appreciate the church being intentional about managing compensation. The pastor should feel free to speak openly about his or her expectations and needs. Then the committee should present its recommendations to other appropriate committee(s) – this will minimize any embarrassment for the pastor. **NOTE:** *We are currently completing a 3 year plan to update compensation.*
- **Counsel Pastor Regarding Continuing Education** – It is important that the committee support the pastor's needs to improve skills by providing appropriate resources (time and money) for learning.
- **Assist in Employment or Departure of Staff** – The committee should be aware of church staff openings. When there is a pastoral transition, the committee can help make it a smooth one.
- **Enlist the Help of the Congregation for the Development of Expanded Ministerial Leadership** to identify and encourage gifted persons in the congregation to assist in the church's ministerial leadership, and create a climate of expectation where God's call to vocational ministry can be heard.

NOTE: Our Church Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of Procedure include such a committee under the Personnel Commission of the Deacons. We have been operating without one during Pastor Bailey's pastorate.

Generosity is Modeled and Mimicked



Dr. M. R. DeHaan, a second-career pastor (in his early 30s he gave up his medical practice to attend seminary) is perhaps best known as the founder of the Radio Bible Class and the editor of “Our Daily Bread”. While in high school back in the early 1970s, I had occasion to read his commentary on Hebrews and was so struck by this passage that I copied it by hand into the flyleaf of my Bible: *“There is a vast difference between coming to Jesus for salvation and coming after Jesus for service. Coming to Christ makes one a believer, while coming after Christ makes one a disciple. Not all believers are disciples. To become a believer one accepts the invitation of the Gospel, to be a disciple one obeys the challenge to a life of dedicated service and separation. Salvation comes through the sacrifice of Christ; discipleship comes only by sacrifice of self and surrender to His call for devoted service. Salvation is free, but discipleship involves paying the price of a separated walk. Salvation can’t be lost because it depends upon God’s faithfulness, but discipleship can be lost because it depends upon our faithfulness.”*

DeHaan’s decision to leave his successful practice to enter vocational ministry was motivated by his understanding of God’s generosity. God had been extravagantly generous with him in that He offered freely, by God’s grace, eternal life. DeHaan appreciated this gift could only be received by simple faith, acknowledging that Jesus’ offer of eternal life to those who would believe in Him for it was indeed a valid offer. Eternal life was a gift, not a reward, and could not be earned or deserved. He also understood that although it was completely free to him, his eternal life cost God the life of God’s only begotten Son.

That example of Generosity on God’s part was what motivated the young doctor to respond in kind by “denying himself, taking up his cross and following Jesus.” At its very core, DeHaan realized that discipleship, following Jesus, was being a faithful steward of all that God has given him. To DeHaan, our generosity is mimicking the generosity that we saw Jesus model. As Jesus said when he sent His disciples out in Matthew 10, *“Freely you have received, freely give.”*

During this [Summer] we have ample opportunity to reflect on the abundance with which we are blessed and on the generosity with which it has been given. Because of God’s abundant generosity we have the assurance that we are secure in God’s love and gracious embrace. It is from this position of privilege that we have the freedom to truly love our neighbors as ourselves. This mimicked generosity (don’t let mimic throw you; it essentially means “to imitate”) is an intentional reflection of the values of our Lord Himself. A disciple is one who seeks to develop within themselves the character, values, and mission of their teacher. *God so loved that He gave; we show our love by our generous giving as well. Meditate on these words from the fifth chapter of Ephesians, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us . . .”*

Steve Bills, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

Eastwood Baptist Finances – as reported to the Deacons on June 13, 2018



End of May Checking Account Balance	\$21,500
Previous Month	\$26,100
Year to Date Expenses vs Income	\$7,374 Behind
Previous Month	\$1,662 Behind

Birthdays



Anniversaries

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emily Stoddard
- 3 Denise Foland
- 6 Jenny Berube
Jackie Bishop
- 9 Brenda Mertz
- 16 Hal Husovsky
- 19 Darryl Hamlin
Thorn Duch
- 20 William Walker
- 27 Christopher Braga

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARY to:

- 19 Paul and Phyllis Bailey
- 23 William and Cathy Stone
- 30 Debbie and Bob Joyce

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emily Stoddard
- 3 Denise Foland
- 6 Jenny Berube
Jackie Bishop
- 9 Brenda Mertz
- 16 Hal Husovsky
- 19 Darryl Hamlin
Thorn Duch
- 20 William Walker
- 27 Christopher Braga

HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARY to:

- 19 Paul and Phyllis Bailey
- 23 William and Cathy Stone
- 30 Debbie and Bob Joyce