

The Eastwood Baptist

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

3212 JAMES ST.

SYRACUSE, NY 13206-3095

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Permit # 2043

Syracuse, NY

Eastwood Life



Eastwood Baptist Church Newsletter

May 2019

“CONNECTING HEARTS & HANDS”

PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS

James is odd...not your friend James, but rather the Book of James in the Bible. In church history, some have thought it didn't belong in the Bible at all. It's written more like a behavior policy manual. James does not mention the Holy Spirit or the resurrection at all. Jesus is only mentioned twice. It's not deeply theological like some of Paul's letters. It's more like a book on Christian ethics.

Who wrote it? There are many people in the Bible named James, but the author of this letter seems to be the brother of Jesus. That James. He became head of the church in Jerusalem.

FAITH: Just Do It! That's the title of the series this Spring. Because this is a practical book, each Sunday I'll try to identify 2-3 things you can do...a behavior to practice or a task to accomplish during the week.

Pastor Paul Bailey

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

5:30pm August 5-8



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★
LOVE ONE ANOTHER
LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34

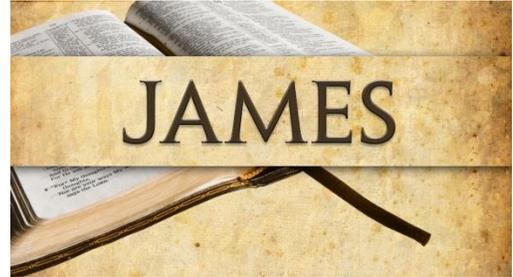
GARAGE SALE

May 4 & 5th

- Bring in stuff anytime!
- Helpers needed beginning the week before.

May 10:30 am WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- May 5** **CELEBRATE COMMUNION SUNDAY**
FAITH: Just Do It!
Trials & Temptations: James 1:1-18
Communion with the Eastwood Karen Baptist Church
Outhouse Mission begins!
Garage Sale weekend
- May 12** **MOTHER'S DAY**
FAITH: Just Do It!
Actions Speak Louder: James 1:19-27
- May 19** **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY**
FAITH: Just Do It!
Favorites: James 2:1-13
Congregational Meeting following worship
- May 26** **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**
FAITH: Just Do It!
Faith That Works: James 2:14-26
Remembering those who have died who served in the military



Coming in June...

- June 2 **Communion**
- June 9 **Children's Day/Pentecost Sunday**
- June 16 **Father's Day & Graduate Recognition Sunday**

TRANSITIONS

NEW PRIEST – Blessed Sacrament Church welcomes Rev. Severine P Yagaza as pastor of Blessed Sacrament/St. Vincents beginning July 1st.

HAIR IS REGROWING – on the heads of Janet Freeman, Sam and Dave Sampson after St. Baldrick's Day that benefits the fight against Pediatric Cancer.

OUTHOUSE is now in the SANCTUARY - Did you know that WIC and food stamps don't cover essential paper products such as diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper and feminine products? For the month of May, we will be collecting those items in the Outhouse which is located in the rear of the sanctuary. (Yes, we said there's an outhouse in the sanctuary!) These items will be distributed to our local community through the Blessed Sacrament food pantry. Our challenge to the congregation is to fill this outhouse to the brim! Thank you in advance for your participation!

-The Mission Commission Dave Sampson, Gayle Vinette, Dale Sargeant and Sue Rizzo

Where You Find Great Gratitude You Find Great Generosity

How do we hold generosity and gratitude together? By remembering how generosity and gratitude are woven together in Biblical narratives.



1. In John 4, the woman at the well generously shared with the people in her village the good news of the Messiah's presence because she was grateful she had an encounter with Him.
2. In Mark 14/Luke 7, the forgiven woman generously broke the alabaster jar and anointed the feet of Jesus because she was grateful for His grace.
3. In Luke 15, the father of the prodigal son generously hosted an extravagant party because he was grateful his son was alive and returned home.
4. In Luke 17, the man healed of leprosy generously thanked and worshipped Jesus because he was grateful for his healing.
5. In Luke 19, Zacchaeus generously gave half his possessions because he was grateful Jesus saw him, accepted his hospitality and brought salvation to his home.

In every account, the grateful one and the giver were the same person. There are those who are motivated to give because of the gratitude expressed to them for the gift. The greater generosity is by those who give because of what has been given to them. In no case did Jesus, demand the expression of generosity. The generosity flowed as response of their gratitude.

How do you say, "Thank you?"

In *Learning the Way – Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities*, Dr. Cassandra Carkuff Williams (ABHMS Director of Discipleship) offers a powerful story about the connection between gratitude and generosity.

For Valentine's Day one year, I did a children's sermon in which I gave each of the children a flower as a reminder of God's love for them. With wide-eyed smiles, they proudly and carefully carried their little treasures back to their pews. Later, as Sunday school began, one of the adults arrived huffing, "I am so ashamed. Not one of those children said "thank you." She was late for the adult class, because she had taken time to admonish the children for their oversight. After class, one by one, remorseful children shuffled their way to me to apologize and say, "Thank you for the flower." No happy saunters. No smiling eyes. My response to each child was, "I appreciate your words, but I already heard you say thank you. I 'heard' it in your smile and in the way you handled your flower." The children may not have expressed their gratitude in the "right" way but genuine thankfulness had emanated from them. The children's gratitude had issued from their belief that I had given them flowers simply to show them love – no conditions, no expectations. Once the "should" entered the equation, the authenticity of their celebration was replaced with perfunctory words.

Are our calls to generosity invitations to remember all God does and has done? Our calls to generosity are sometimes couched in the language of obligation and duty [should and ought] when they are better positioned in the language of gratitude and invitation. Consider occasions you have been most generous and what inspired or motivated that act of generosity? *By Rev. Lisa R. Harris-Lee, director of Mission Engagement and National Network Initiatives*



CALLING ALL GRADUATES

We love to celebrate our graduates! If anyone is celebrating this milestone please fill out the graduation form (available on the back table) and return to them to the church office by June 2nd.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Education Commission is pleased to be able to offer partial financial scholarships and spiritual support for children and youth attending a Christian camp experience this summer. Please fill out an application and return it to the church office by May 26th. Applications are available on the back table.

MIRIAM CIRCLE "LUNCH BUNCH"

meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, May 1st at Tony's Restaurant on Burnet Ave. All women are invited.



SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN

Will be held on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch is provided.
Donations of any amount are welcome.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating in MAY

- 4 Shelby Cadiz
- 7 Arthur Miller
Sue Stred
- 9 Christina Walczyk Welborn
Marge Hamlin
- 13 Charlie Foland
- 14 Brooke Murphy
- 16 Chris Prindle
- 19 Nicholas Stoddard
Lydia Richard
- 22 Roberta Sheffer
- 23 Catherine Spies
- 27 Charlie Rauhe
- 28 Sally DiFelice
Chaz Foland

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

- 7 Jerry and Dawn Lavy
- 13 Carrie and Tom Murphy
- 15 Janet and Tom Ricciardiello



Eastwood Baptist Finances — as reported to the Deacons on April 10, 2019

	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>As of the End of March</u>
Checking Account Balance	\$ 28,300	\$ 30,400
Year to Date Expenses vs Income	\$ 5,639 BEHIND	\$ 3,335 BEHIND