



The Beacon

Eastwood Baptist Church

"Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future"

December 15, 2011

Why We Need Jesus?

An intriguing title in the most recent issue of Christianity Today caught my interest with the subsequent comment: *Why We Need Jesus? Reason and morality cannot show us a good and gracious God. For that, we need the Incarnation.* The article was itself a doctrinal essay, a well-reasoned and thoughtful response to the question, *Why We Need Jesus.* But in all of its reasonable arguments, somehow it missed the good and gracious nature of the Incarnational God. (This issue of Christianity Today is available through our church library)

The "Incarnation" is "religious speak" for God taking on flesh and blood, becoming fully human, subject to all the temptations, foibles, joys and fears of all human beings. John writes, *"And the Word became flesh and lived among us..."* John 1:14. He concludes this section with these words, *"No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."* John 1:18.

Jesus was born so that we might know God. When I look at Jesus, I see God's heart. I see God's love manifested among friends and enemies alike. I wonder if Jesus would fit into the I Corinthians 13 description of love (as rendered in the Message):

Jesus never gives up.
Jesus cares more for others than for self.
Jesus doesn't want what he doesn't have.
Jesus doesn't strut,
He doesn't have a swelled head,
He doesn't force himself on others,
He isn't always "me first,"
He doesn't fly off the handle,
He doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
He doesn't revel when others grovel,
Jesus takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
He puts up with anything,
He trusts God always,
Jesus always looks for the best,
He never looks back,
But he keeps going to the end.

Why do we need Jesus?

Because he shows us the true nature of God's heart.

Through Jesus we learn of a good and gracious God.

This is the God I fell in love with years ago.

This is the God I still love and follow today.

Grace and Peace

Merry Christmas

Pastor Miller

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EASTWOOD STAFF

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Robert A. Murphy

Pastor Emeritus

Jerry Gilmer

Assistant to the Pastor

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Youth Ministry Coordinator

Linda Tripp

Worship Coordinator

Wendy Austin

Choir Director

Sandi Campbell

Church Secretary

Sam J. Angulo

Custodian

Danielle Bates

Nursery Attendant

Reflections No. 18...Hmmm

How many birthday celebrations do you know of that go on for two and a half months? You may think I'm talking about the commercial Christmas time, sometimes referred to as The Christmas Holidays. But I am referring to the amount of time given over to the Christian Christmas calendar.

There is Advent, we recognize it because of the Advent Candle Lighting, which is the four Sundays before Christmas focusing on our preparing for Jesus' arrival. (I can remember Maxine packing a suitcase in preparation for our son's arrival, her trip to the hospital, which I was too nervous to remember to put in the car.)...Hmmm

And then there is Christmas, which includes Christmas Eve (every one knows babies are born at night, right?), Christmas Day and for some reason New Year's Day. Christmas has to do with the actual physical birth of Jesus (Mary did alright, Joseph was still upset with the Inn Keeper, Jesus was probably sleeping.). Mothers like to brag about how well their babies sleep. Fathers like to announce the occasions as though it was all their doing ...Hmmm

Beginning on Jan. 6 until Feb. 17 we have what is called Epiphany. I like how Webster defines Epiphany, "a Christian feast day commemorating the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Gentiles." (That's us baby!) Now comes the fun stuff. ...Hmmm

Some people get annoyed with the use of Christmas as a commercial sales opportunity. However, another way to see this is it is a lot of free advertisement. ..Hmmm And we need all the advertisement we can get to help us proclaim the story of God's redeeming love.

For some people, this season is the only time they get to hear the words of God's love, and especially the little ones get to hear the words about a Child Is Born in Bethlehem. Paul said to the Corinthians 9:22 "Among the weak in faith I become weak like one of them, to win them. So I become all things to all men, that I may save some of them by any means possible." Could we be like Paul?... Hmmm

God has engineered a full fledged advertisement season to proclaim the birth of his Son; the news is shouted from the housetops, and in the byways all over the land, it is proclaimed in music and lights, and WE, you and I, get to add our voices and testimony to God's revelation. Hallelujah Christ is come!....Hmmm, Hmmm
Blessings and a Merry Christmas

Jerry

UP COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Love of God
- December 18 Rainbow Acres Meeting 12 pm
Christmas Dinner - 5:00 pm
Christmas Play - 6:00 pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
Choir Cantata - "*Night of Wonder, Night of Joy*"
- December 25 Christmas Day
Christ is Born
- December 26 Church Office Closed

JANUARY

- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 2 Church Office Closed
- January 6 Annual Reports Due
- January 16 Martin Luther King Jr.
Birthday - Office Closed
- January 18 Glen and Rita Chapman
at Eastwood
- January 22 Eastwood Annual Meeting

ABW

Ladies,

ABW will be meeting on January 10th at 9:30 am for our annual White Cross work day. We roll bandages for use in the Congo Baptist hospitals.



Please bring your scissors, any sheets that are old and you wouldn't miss, and a New Year's resolution!

There will be refreshments and fellowship!

Social time begins at 9:30 am and we will start at 10:00.

Intergeneration Christian Forums for Young People

On November 13th we began hosting forums on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

Purpose: To provide a safe and secure environment 1) where intergenerational relationships can be nurtured, 2) where a variety of topics related to young adults will be discussed, and 3) where Christian faith practices can be explored.

The format consists of two groups— young men and young women, meeting in two different classrooms. The forums are led by two adults that will help share and foster sharing, questions, testimony, and discussions.

These forums are built around topics that appeal to young people issues—mostly taboo issues and these forums are open to young adults. Please be praying that this experience will benefit all involved and that much fruit will be formed.

Dear Congregation,

It is the desire of your Board of Deacons to provide a Year-End Love Gift to our Pastors and staff as a way of showing our appreciation for their service to us this year. If you wish to participate in this "Thank You," please place your gift in one of the Love Offering envelopes, designating your checks to "Staff Love Gift" and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office during normal business hours.

Thank you for your generosity in this opportunity to share God's love with our staff this Christmas season.

Dick Bath
Moderator

Love 

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Our Church: its leaders and families

All of those with health needs.

All service people overseas, including:

Eric Lektorich, Army

Kevin Hoffman, Army

James Gilmer, USMC

Lolo Vasquez, Iraq

Aaron Chisem, US Navy

Jason Cesario, Iraq

William C. Backes II, Army Recruit

Nicholas Hart, Marines

Nate Cox, Army Reserve

Daniel Oravetz, Air Force

Logan Oravetz, Army

Please pray for all students, teachers and parents (of all ages of children)

Unemployed / Underemployed

Our ABCO churches, pastors and missionaries serving around the world.

Jonna Reeder

Kurt Hildebrand, serving in Haiti

Christmas Cards and Wishes

On the kiosk closest to the church office Christmas cards are displayed. These cards came to "Eastwood's Family."

If you have a minute, stop by and see recent pictures of our missionaries.

Advent/Christmas Calendar

December 18	Christmas Dinner	5:00
	Christmas Play	6:00
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	
	Choir Cantata	7:00
December 25	Morning Worship	10:30

**A
Christmas
Dinner Theater**

**“THE
REAL CAREGIVER”**

A star studded cast of adults and children

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 18th

Dinner (donation) at 5:00 in the K-Building

Play at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

JOIN THE FUN!

BRING A FRIEND!

Pastor's Recommended Reading

Max Lucado's
The Song of the King a
wonderful children's story for
all ages.

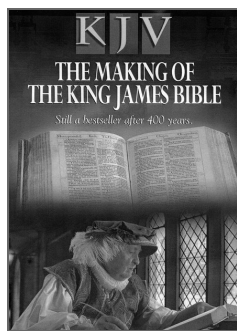


Richard Foster and James
Bryon Smith's
Devotional Classics a great
collection of devotional and spiritual writings
that spans centuries of time. All in one
volume.

*The Making of the King
James Bible.*

A DVD on the making of the
King James Bible.

The above can all be found in
our church Library.



New at the Library

248.8 ELL

Dennis Ellington

*The Godly Grandparent; Living Faithfully
and Influencing Your Grandchildren for
Christ.*

Maslow Project

Thank you to all the knitters, crocheters,
and quilters who made items that
were taken to the Maslow Project, an
agency that ministers to homeless children
and teens in our valley.

Thank you also to those who gave food,
clothing, toiletries, and other items
to be donated to Maslow. Your generosity
is greatly appreciated.

Gail Eastman

Maslow coordinator

* * * * *

Coming Wednesday, January 18th...

Glen and Rita Chapman,
missionaries to Congo

More information will follow.

* * * * *

**RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING
CONNECTS GENERATIONS**

RMMO 2010



Remember with LOVE

Give with GRATITUDE

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Mid-Week Worship will meet on Wednesday, December 21st. Wednesday, December 28th is cancelled. We will resume on January 4th.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Who likes to knit and/or crochet?

Next Meeting: Monday January 9 at 1:00 pm

Any questions - call Janice Calvert at 541-779-4994 or Joan Avery at 541-702-2144.

WINTER SESSION...

First Place 4 Health

Tuesday, January 3rd
Room 14—5:30 - 7:00 PM

Beginning Again

This is a combination health management / Bible study women's group.

For more information call:
Jan Blankenship, 541-772-7888



Youth Echoes

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:1-5).

Christmas is a time to focus on the greatest gift to humanity, Jesus the Christ. It is a time for His Church, the one's that know that the "Lord is good," to come together with strangers, family and friends to celebrate and rejoice. The metaphor of Christ being a stone is symbolic to His Church as well, for Peter points writes that we as "living stones" are constantly being built into a spiritual house. Matthew Henry points out about these verses, "The believing soul makes haste to Christ, but it never finds cause to hasten from him. All true Christians are a chosen generation; they make one family, a people distinct from the world: of another spirit, principle, and practice; which they could never be, if they were not chosen in Christ to be such, and sanctified by his Spirit."

This Christmas season let us all rejoice in God and the gift of the Saviour. The One in whom we get to partake in His joy, love, friendship, hope, inheritance, and even glory. In relation to this passage, the youth and I have been given many opportunities to fellowship, learn and grow. God is pruning and refining the youth through many experiences and trials-continue to pray that they will be "built" up.

As for youth events...last week the youth and I had the chance to go to a very exciting hockey game. And this week many of the youth got to support three of our youths who were singing/playing instruments at Scenic Middle School's Christmas Concert. Good times! This Thursday is our youth event, and we will also be participating in all of the Church Christmas events. Blessings!

In Him,
Eli

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>New Years Day 1</p> <p>8 am Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School Classes All Ages 10:30 Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8 am Chapel Prayers 9:15 Sunday School Classes All Ages 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 5 (K-Building)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 ABW 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Elmer's) 5:30 First Place</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:15 Community Bible Study 5:30 Deacon's Agape Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8 am Prayer in Chapel 9:15 Sunday School Classes All Ages 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Church Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 5 (K-Building)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 ABW 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Elmer's) 5:30 First Place</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Missionaries Glen and Rita Chapman 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:00 Builder's Social</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8 am Prayer in Chapel 9:15 Sunday School Classes All Ages 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scout Troop 5 (K-Building)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12 pm Men's Bible Study (Elmer's) 5:30 First Place</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8 am Prayer in Chapel 9:15 Sunday School Classes All Ages 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>Youth Sunday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scout Troop 5 (K-Building)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12 pm Men's Bible Study (Elmer's) 5:30 First Place</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Mid-Week Bible Study 7:15 Choir Practice</p>			

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Are there any changes, additions or deletions?

Please let Sandi in the church office know so she can make the corrections and notify everyone.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joyce Low
- 2 Rhonda Pronesti
- 5 Aleena (Allie) Austin
- 6 Mim Brandenburg
- 6 Julie Kinsman
- 6 Katie Lektorich
- 6 William Saylor
- 8 Jackie Graber
- 10 Tyler Hunter
- 10 Jerry Lektorich
- 11 Russell McIntyre
- 11 Rosalie Neufeld
- 11 Ada Senften
- 13 Gracie Dintleman
- 15 George Coplan
- 16 Lois Olstad
- 19 Suzan Darby
- 20 Carol Bath
- 20 Joe Bowden
- 20 Jody Ramirez
- 22 Melba McIntyre
- 22 Matthew Nottingham
- 22 Tyler VanDyke
- 23 Jonathan Cawthorne
- 23 Justin Cawthorne
- 24 Heather Campbell
- 24 Chrissy Chisem
- 24 Miranda Lektorich
- 25 Joel Bath
- 25 Frankie Smith
- 25 Kevin VanDyke
- 25 Kristal VanDyle
- 29 Merle Neufeld
- 30 Annabelle Sears
- 30 Joseph Yungen

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Paul and Barbara Meuse
- 22 Joan and Richard Avery

NOTE: Please let the office know if your birthday and/or anniversary is listed incorrectly OR if it has been omitted.

New Year's - 2012

Why not make a commitment to attend church on a regular basis in the new year! Watch and see the changes that take place.

RTM

2012 Deacons Nominations

Your Nominating Committee is meeting to propose names for five positions that need to be filled at the Annual Meeting in January. If you would like to submit a name for consideration, please contact the Nominating Committee members.

Thank you for your prayers and help.

Nominating Committee:

Don Eastman
Stan Ross
Dianne Rowell
Sue Shaw

Positions to be filled:

Moderator...3-year term
Christian Education...3-year term
Missions...3-year term
Nominating/Personnel...3-year term
Fellowship...1-year term

Christmas Cards

Several Christmas cards have been mailed to Eastwood. They are posted on the kiosk closest to the church office.

2012 Flower Calendar

The new 2012 flower calendar is here! If you are interested in providing a floral bouquet for our Worship Center this year, get your date(s) selected soon. If the flowers are for a special occasion such as celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or given in loving memory of someone, please note that so we can add this to the Sunday bulletin.



EASTWOOD BEACON

Eastwood Baptist Church
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Medford, OR 97504

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www.ebcmedford.org

Non-Profit Organization

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Medford, OR

Permit No. 617

*Reaching Out to the Community
for Christ*

December 18, 2011

*Pastor Randolph Miller, preaching
Fourth Sunday of Advent - God's Love*

SUNDAY, December 18th

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School classes (all ages)	9:15
Worship Service	10:30
Rainbow Acres Planning Meeting (after worship)	
Christmas Dinner - K-Building	5:00
Christmas Play <i>The Real Caregiver</i>	6:00

MONDAY, December 19th

Boy Scout Troop 5	7:00
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TUESDAY, December 20th

Men's Luncheon (Elmer's Restaurant)	12:00
First Place	5:30
Choir Rehearsal	6:45

WEDNESDAY, December 21st

Staff Meeting	11:00
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THURSDAY, December 22nd

FRIDAY, December 23rd

SATURDAY, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00
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December 25, 2011

*Pastor Randolph Miller, preaching
Christmas Day - Christ is Born*

SUNDAY, December 25th

Prayer in Chapel	8:00
Sunday School classes (all ages)	9:15
Worship Service	10:30

MONDAY, December 26th

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, December 27th

Men's Luncheon (Elmer's Restaurant)	12:00
First Place	5:30

WEDNESDAY, December 28th

Staff Meeting	11:00
NO Mid-Week Worship	
Choir Practice	7:15

THURSDAY, December 29th

FRIDAY, December 30th

SATURDAY, December 31st