

His 4 Souls

WITH BROTHER TOM

In the recent offering of “Learn and Serve” classes I taught a class on ‘First Impressions’ (how to welcome guests and create in them a desire to come back). Because there was no curriculum for this I had to do a lot of reading and was startled by much of what I read. I’d like to share some of the key insights in this article.

- 1. In one year we will have more guests than we think** – Research shows that of Sunday church attendance between 5-8% will be guests. We average about 825 in our three services and using 5% means we will have 2,145 guests this year alone.
- 2. Many guests are going through situations that make them more responsive to God** – Guests are typically not an average cross-section of the community. Many are going through things like death, birth, marriage, divorce, disease, etc. that makes them seek the Lord.
- 3. Guests assess very quickly if they are coming back** – Typically in the first 7-11 minutes guests decide if they are coming back. This means before I preach or Dana leads a song, a guest has made up their mind if they are coming back. And the clock starts ticking when they visit our website or drive onto our church parking lot. That means somewhere around the preschool area as they have entered the building, they have decided if they will be back.
- 4. A guest who is attending may represent years of prayer, service, and invitation by a church member** – Some people it takes years to finally attend. We need to remember that as we seek to welcome them to Eastwood.
- 5. There are 4 points of first impression before the guests ever enter the church’s building** - They are, in order, social media, mobile site, website, and the parking lot. While we are working to upgrade the website and have a good social media presence, we need to improve our parking lot by placing greeters out there as well as better signage to guest parking. We don’t have a church mobile app, which is a huge detriment in an age when almost everyone uses a smart phone, iPad, or the like.

- 6. Parking is not only a first impression issue; it is a potential growth lid as well** - If guests have difficulty finding a parking spot, they may decide not to come to church at all.
- 7. The children's area is critical** - Families will not return if they perceive a room is too small, if the children's area is understaffed, or if the area appears unclean and unsafe.
- 8. Greeters gathered together talking to one another may be less effective than no greeters at all** - If the greeters are in a holy huddle talking to one another, they give the appearance they are cliquish and not focused on the guests.

Let's continue to do all that we can to improve and make Eastwood as inviting a church as possible.

His,

Bro Tom

WORSHIP NOTES WITH DANA ELLIS

Before we jump into summer, I would like to once again thank our PraizeKidz teachers and helpers. They work tirelessly to teach these young hearts about God and His attributes through music. They are always here with smiling faces greeting the children and displaying the love of the Lord to each one of them. As you see these teachers and helpers, please let them know how much you appreciate them as well.

Our Annual Patriotic Service will be on Sunday, July 2. If you would like, wear clothes in patriotic colors. The choir and worship ministry will remind us that God has protected our country through the years as we have placed our trust in Him. Come ready to wave "old glory" as we celebrate God and Country on July 2.

Save the date! Our 10th Annual Gospel Homecoming is going to be the best ever. Can you believe it's been ten years? On Sunday night, August 20, we will gather to sing, laugh and enjoy some good 'ol gospel music. Afterwards we will meet in the fellowship center for delicious desserts. Save the date – August 20!

YOUNG ADULTS

WITH MARK WHITAKER

There is a movement within Christianity of people who interpret the second commandment to have no graven image to mean that any visual representation of God is strictly prohibited. They call themselves iconoclasts and often target things like crucifixes, paintings of Jesus, statues, and stained glass windows depicting members of the Godhead. I was reading in my devotions this morning in Deuteronomy 4 where Moses explains to the people of Israel that because God did not reveal Himself visually at Mt. Horeb (Sinai) when He gave the Ten Commandments, He is demonstrating that He prefer not to be represented by something He created (animals, birds, fish, etc). This conversation begs the question, *How does God want us to think of Him?* I think we can find our answer in Colossians 1:15 where it says, "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God..." To quote that old Christian hip hop group of the 90's, "God is doing a *nu thang*" This tells us that God does in fact want us to see Him in physical form, but only on His terms, which had not yet fully been revealed to Moses. That means that God wants us to remember Jesus when we think of Him. This is why at Eastwood we seek to make our worship explicitly Christ-centered—we believe that's what God wants! So when you're trying to work out who it is that you are praying to or praising, think of Jesus, the one who lived the perfect life you couldn't live, died the death you deserved, and rose again in the resurrection you get to share if you put your trust in Him.

SENIOR ADULTS WITH GREG SWACK

PrimeTimers Potluck

Thursday, June 15 at 11:45am

East Campus Fellowship Center

Bring a dish and enjoy music by the Gilbert Family!

Also, door prizes, devotional, and fun!

PrimeTimers Lunch at Sulphur Well

Saturday, July 15

Leave-9:45am/Return by 2:00pm

Enjoy their famous family-style meal of fried chicken, country ham, and catfish.

KIDZ KORNER WITH MEGAN WOODS

VBS June 4-9 @ East Campus 6:00pm-8:30pm and June 4-7 @ South Campus

6:00pm-8:30pm

Please pray that this week will go smoothly and many children will be engaged and receive the Word of God by discovering the Creator of the Universe.

Camp Courageous for 1st-4th Graders

Registration is open for children who have completed 1st-4th grade.

Kids completing 1st grade will attend July 10-12 and ride to camp every morning in time for breakfast and arrive back to church at 5:00pm (1st graders do NOT spend the night). Cost: \$65

Kids completing 2nd-4th grade will attend July 10-12 and have a three day/two night experience. Cost: \$70.

Space is limited and registration will close when all bed space is reserved. Make your reservation online. Another way to register is to fill out a registration form and pay a \$25 non-refundable deposit using a green envelope. Deposit and registration for camp will be due Friday, June 23.

****Mandatory parent meetings-please choose one of the following: Sunday, June 25 @ 5:30pm or Wednesday, June 28 @ 6:00pm. Both meetings are at East Campus.**

Bible Study Teacher Meetings

Sunday, July 23 @ East Campus 4:00pm in Fellowship Center

Sunday, July 30 @ South Campus 4:00pm at the Fireside

****These are mandatory meetings for all preschool-6th grade teachers. Choose ONE date and location that is best for you. Let's get excited about kicking off our fall Bible Study classes with a new group of children. We can brainstorm and learn ways we can engage children to grow close to God and understand His Word. ****Please RSVP if you can or can't attend (megan@eastwoodbc.org).****

Volunteer Job Openings

Immediate Needs:

South: Bed Babies during 9:00 hour (1st/3rd Sunday of the month); assistant for 1s/2s at the 10:30 hour (2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month); teachers for the 3 and 4 year old class during the summer (June and July)

East: Preschool Desk Workers at the 9:30 hour

STUDENT MINISTRY WITH JUSTIN MCCLURE

Summer Thursday Lunch

Just because it's summer doesn't mean we don't want to hang out with you! See us for lunch every Thursday. Meet at the church at 11am.

MPACT Mission Camp

June 16-21. Students will be in Hot Springs, AK doing mission work and spreading the love of Jesus all week. Email erin@eastwoodbc.org for more information.

RAK Day

June 27. RAK stands for Random Acts of Kindness. We don't want to just talk about the love of Jesus but we want to show it in a real way to the community. On this day students will get a specific project or goal and will work together to be light and salt in Bowling Green!

EDUCATION WITH ED JENT

June 4 we will begin a study in Psalms. If you are not already in a Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship class, this is a great time to get involved. If you are not sure where to go see me and I will help you get situated. This is a great time to get enrolled! Read Psalms 119:9-11 to get motivated. We will be looking for you in class.

As soon as I saw the blue lights come on, several things were running through my mind. How fast was I going? How much is the ticket going to be? What is my wife going to say? What if he tases me?!

When the officer came up to my car and told me how fast I was going, my eyes got really big and my heart began to sink. To my great shame, I was doing about 18mph over the speed limit—63mph in a 45mph zone. This was going to be the biggest speeding ticket I have ever gotten. But then something amazing happened: he simply gave me a warning and told me to slow down. My eyes got even bigger then, and my heart began to rejoice. I told the officer, "Thank you!" and promised to slow down.

As I was driving away, I turned to my son Zachariah and said, "Son, we just witnessed an act of mercy."

I love mercy! Don't you? Mercy happens when you don't receive the punishment you deserve. It's basically having your guilt overlooked. I was certainly guilty of a traffic violation. I deserved a ticket, but the officer overlooked my guilt and didn't issue a citation.

My heart and mind immediately went to thinking about God who has been merciful to us. While what the police officer did was merciful, God's mercy goes even further. You see, as far as the traffic violation goes, I was guilty when the officer pulled me over, and I'm guilty still. The officer didn't remove my guilt. He simply overlooked it, but God cannot overlook guilt. Sin must be punished because God is perfectly just. Therefore, God did something amazing. He took all of my sin and guilt and imputed it to Jesus and took all of Jesus' sinlessness and innocence and imputed it to me. Jesus paid for it instead of me and gave me the favor of God, which He had earned. That's called being "justified," which is to be made righteous or innocent.

Relating this spiritual truth to my speeding, it would be like the officer giving me a ticket with my name on it, then erasing my name and writing in his, and then going to the courthouse to pay the fine for me. That's what Jesus does for all who will believe on Him, and it only happens by grace through faith in Jesus. As 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Therefore, because of Christ's work on the cross, I believe in Him and have been declared innocent. I am righteous according to God!

May this be true of us all through faith alone in Jesus!

EASTWOOD EVENTS:

- 6/1 - 4:15pm PrimeTimer's Dinner @ Boyce
- 6/4 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 6/4-6/9 - 6:00pm VBS (East)
- 6/4-6/7 - 6:00pm VBS (South)
- 6/6 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 6/6 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 6/11 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 6/13 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 6/13 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 6/13 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 6/13 - 12:00pm ALZ Support Group
- 6/14 - 5:30pm Stewardship Meeting
- 6/14 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 6/14 - 6:30pm The Point
- 6/15 - 11:45am PrimeTimer's Potluck
- 6/16 - 10:00am Leave for Camp Mpact
- 6/18 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 6/19 - 12:00pm Leave for CentriKid Camp
- 6/20 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 6/20 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 6/20 - 7:00am Moms in Prayer
- 6/21 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 6/21 - 6:30pm The Point
- 6/25 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 6/27 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 6/27 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 6/28 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 6/28 - 6:30pm The Point

KINGDOM CONTRIBUTIONS

April Monthly Report:

Tithes and Offerings	\$202,000.17
Tithes & Offerings thru 4/30/17	\$1,531,648.52
Tithes & Offerings thru 4/30/16	\$1,443,956.67
His Vision Our Faith	\$32,463.00

May 2017 through 5/12/17:

Tithes & Offerings	\$49,727.77
Tithes & Offerings YTD 5/12/2017	\$1,581,376.29
Tithes & Offerings (same period 2016)	\$1,525,381.29
His Vision Our Faith	\$6,865.00
His Vision Our Faith YTD	\$959,576.71

*Fiscal year Sept. 2016—August 2017

EBC STAFF

Rev. Thomas R. James, Lead Pastor
Rev. Ed Jent, Associate Pastor of Education
Rev. Dana Ellis, Associate Pastor of Music/Worship
Rev. Greg Swack, Associate Pastor of Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
Rev. Justin McClure, Associate Pastor of Students
Megan Woods, Director of Preschool and Children's Ministries
Rev. Ben Simpson, South Campus Pastor
Rev. Mark Whitaker, Associate Pastor of Young Adults/South Worship
Dr. Don Mathis, Staff Evangelist
Sandy Enlow, Business Administrator
Lisa Keen, Education/Children's Ministry Assistant
Erin Reynolds, Senior Adult/Student Ministry Assistant
Natalie Martin, Publications/Worship Ministry Assistant
David Owens, Facilities Manager

WELCOME TO EASTWOOD

Raelie Potter
627 Mallard Crossing
Bowling Green, KY 42104

David & Stephanie Delk
232 Rosie Street
Bowling Green, KY 42103

Marc & Dalana Jones
110 Traylin Court
Alvaton, KY 42122

Olivia Penny
505 Wilson Rd.
Alvaton, KY 42122

Steve & Tara Jennette & Arden
350 Roseberry Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Chase Saxton
625 Frost Lane
Scottsville, KY 42134

Jerry & Joyce Thurman
280 Cumberland Trace, Apt. 911
Bowling Green, KY 42103

6/1 - 2 Corinthians 11-13	6/11 - Psalm 63-65	6/21 - Luke 9-10
6/2 - Exodus 29-32	6/12 - Proverbs 1	6/22 - Ephesians 1-3
6/3 - 2 Samuel 20-24	6/13 - Jeremiah 47-52	6/23 - Leviticus 1-3
6/4 - Psalm 60-62	6/14 - Luke 7-8	6/24 - 1 Kings 10-13
6/5 - Job 41-42	6/15 - Galatians 4-6	6/25 - Psalm 69-71
6/6 - Jeremiah 42-46	6/16 - Exodus 37-40	6/26 - Proverbs 4
6/7 - Luke 5-6	6/17 - 1 Kings 5-9	6/27 - Ezekiel 1-6
6/8 - Galatians 1-3	6/18 - Psalm 66-68	6/28 - Luke 11-12
6/9 - Exodus 33-36	6/19 - Proverbs 2-3	6/29 - Ephesians 4-6
6/10 - 1 Kings 1-4	6/20 - Lamentations	6/30 - Leviticus 4-6

2017 BIBLE READING - JUNE

