



Eastland Baptist Church •
Community
..... Connection

SPRING 2017

COMMUNITY CONNECTION is a publication of Eastland Baptist Church. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide encouragement to the homes and families of our community. If you do not currently have a church home we invite you to be our guest in one of our services soon!

EBC CONNECTIONS:

 **Website**
eastlandbaptist.org

 **Blog**
pastordorrell.com

 **Instagram**
instagram.com/eastlandbaptist

SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday - classes for all ages @ 9:30am

worship service @ 10:30am

evening service @ 6pm

Wednesday - Bible study @ 7pm

Celebrate EASTER

APRIL 16 @ 10:30AM

We invite you to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The music and morning message will focus our attention on the hope that is ours. Because He lives we can know that our sins are forgiven, we have a home in Heaven, and we have a Companion and Guide for life in Jesus. Easter weekend at Eastland Baptist is fun, memorable, and meaningful for the whole family!



*There will be an Egg Hunt for children
(through 4th grade) after the morning service*

The Importance of Your Children Being Involved In A VIBRANT CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

They will be taught purposeful Bible teaching.

In a world that is progressively getting worse morally and spiritually, nothing will serve as a help to your children more than bringing them to a place where they can be taught principles and truths found in God's Word.

Throughout our lives, we go through diverse stages that require different methods of learning. Children are in a beautiful stage where they are more prone to hear and receive truth. They have this insatiable desire to learn because they are extremely curious. (If you have any kids, you know this is an understatement.)

At Eastland Baptist Church, we have dedicated teachers and workers who attempt to feed that curiosity with God's Word in a relevant and practical way. As a result of hearing consistent Bible teaching, your child will become a better person.



They will experience church in an exciting way.

There is not a kid on the planet who doesn't love to have fun. At Eastland, we want to give kids a reason to want to come to church by making it one of the best hours of their week. Coming to church should be a place where kids want to come to have fun learning about God.

They will develop meaningful friendships.

Life happens in relationships. Not only is church a great place for your kids to build godly friendships with other kids that can last a lifetime, it's also an opportunity for kids to connect with adults and leaders. This happens through mentoring or disciple-making relationships, often through children's Sunday School teachers who hang out with them every Sunday. We all need Christ-centered relationships, and the church is best positioned to make these relationships happen in intentional ways.

They will have more happy memories of their childhood.

Bringing your children to a vibrant children's church ministry is one simple way to add happy memories to their childhood. They may never forget the funny skits performed, the memory verses learned, the games that were played, and the prizes they received. I'm sure you want to fill your child's memories with positive happy times.



By Andrew Calabrese
Associate Pastor

Keys to a Happy Marriage

Your marriage is a wonderful and unique gift that God has entrusted to you. God teaches us that the relationship you have with your spouse is to be exclusive and enjoyed! It's easy for life to get busy, and often one of the first things placed on the back burner is our marital relationship. I want to encourage you today to stop and take inventory of your marriage and be sure that you're doing the following:

PRIORITIZE YOUR MARRIAGE

Between our commitment to our kids, extended family, church, school, and work it's easy to misplace value on the most important human relationship in our life. Coach John Wooden said, "The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." It's important to love your kids and value them, but don't sacrifice your marriage in the process. When the marriage relationship is right the children often fall into place. Be sure that your marriage is at the top of your food chain!

PLAN YOUR MARRIAGE

Planning is a fundamental key to success. Confucius once said, "A man who does not plan long ahead will find trouble at his door." If successful people are people who plan, why not plan your marriage? Plan to spend time with your spouse each week, plan to say something special to them when you greet each other after work, and plan several times together throughout the year for the two of you to connect.

PROTECT YOUR MARRIAGE

Make sure that your marriage is an exclusive relationship that you protect. I may be old school in my thinking, but I believe that intimate conversations should be reserved for your spouse. It has been proven that self-disclosure is a gateway to intimacy. Make your spouse feel special by reserving parts of your heart only for them.

Spring is a great time of year to take stock of your marriage and recommit yourself to your spouse. Schedule a date night soon and love the mate God has blessed you with!

To further enrich your marriage, visit our staff blog at pastordorrell.com for helpful articles on marriage and the home



By Daniel Fleet
Associate Pastor





TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

The Value of Friendship and a Church Family

As travelers through life, God never intended that we make our journey alone. There are simply too many obstacles and challenges to navigate without the help and assistance of others. Plus, life is simply too grand not to have someone with whom to share its joy and wonder!

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Fellowship with others is one of the great blessings of life, and to have a friend is not just a good idea, it is really God's idea for us. God Himself is called the friend of sinners. That's who we are—imperfect people in need of both a Savior and a friend.

God's desire to be our friend is so strong that He was willing to die on the cross for us to make provision for the forgiveness of our sins and to restore a lost fellowship with Him that our sins created. The simple gospel story is that God became a perfect man and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and stands as the substitute for those who receive His provision by faith. By trusting Jesus Christ as Savior, we secure our salvation and gain an abiding friend in Jesus.

The Lord knows there is value in earthly friendship, as well as fellowship. One place in the Bible where God tells us why having a good friend is important is in Ecclesiastes. There, we are told something simple but very profound: two are better than one. The reason given is that we gain something together that cannot be had alone. Three things specifically are mentioned.

FIRST, two are better than one because when we fall down there is someone there to lift us up. More often than we like to admit, we do fall down in life. There are times when we fail, we get discouraged, and we mess up and blow up. What a blessing it is when a good and godly friend is there to lift us up, dust us off, and encourage us with supportive words. The truth is many people don't have friends like that, and they are poorer for it.

SECOND, we are told that two are better than one because when one is vulnerable another is there to make him stronger. A real concern in the ancient world was the threat of cold and the peril of traveling alone. During extremely cold weather, body heat could often make the difference between life and death. The principle and application though have to do with vulnerability. Alone, we are in a more precarious condition without the help

and support of another. Vulnerability comes when we are weak and tired, alone without accountability, and tempted by things that hold the potential to hurt us. But, a friend who stands with us can help us when we are weak, can provide the accountability and counsel we need to make better decisions, and is there to help us stand against the threatening things of life.

THE THIRD REASON we are given that two are better than one is that two people have the ability to protect each other against the dangers of life better than a person does alone. When in a battle, it is a blessing to know someone has our back. The same is true when we navigate the battles of life. Having someone who is there, who will stand with us, fight for us, and be there for us in our time of need is a blessing beyond measure.

These are just a few of the Biblical reasons for the value in friendship and why I believe it is so important to be a part of a church family. In a good church, you will find the kind of friends that will be there for you as you navigate the blessings and difficulties of life, someone to stand beside you in good times and bad, during both your triumphs and your trials—people who will tell you the things you need to hear, not just the things you might want to hear. You see, a real friend isn't just a companion but someone who helps us become a better person. That is the kind of friend Jesus Christ wants to be for us, and the kind of friend He intends for us to be to one another. If a real friend is something you are looking for today, then I would like to invite you to visit our church sometime soon and let us introduce you to the Friend of sinners, and we will give a genuine effort to being your friend, too.

By Pastor Dorrell
Pastor



“A REAL FRIEND ISN'T JUST A COMPANION BUT SOMEONE WHO HELPS US BECOME A BETTER PERSON.”

Quality of LIFE

There is no shortage nowadays of discussion about healthcare, both in the media and on the street—especially these past few months as Obama Care is the target of our new administration to be repealed and replaced. As a member of the phenomena sometimes called “The Graying of America” or “The Silver Storm,” I find much of the conversation among my peers to be centered in four basic topics, not listed here necessarily in order of most to least discussed. We talk about (1.) foods we enjoy, places we like to “eat out” (2.) family, especially grandchildren updates (3.) sports and activities, personally attended, or attended via television. (4.) prescriptions we take, along with assorted health issues.

Someone has said the three stages of life are youth, middle age, and “You look great!” – a phrase thrown our direction to smooth our wrinkles, and bring a smile! We use the term “quality of life” most often with regard to our physical well-being, and rightly so, since much of our enjoyment of life hinges upon sound physical health. Based on the following statistics courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, our medications and medical advances must be working!

- Presently one out of every 8 people is 65 or older, and the number is increasing daily.
- In 1900 the average life expectancy in the U.S. was less than 50 years. Today it is 77.6 years.



By Jim Ramsey
Associate Pastor

- Every day 5500 people turn 65 years of age.
- For the first time in American history, there are now more people over age 65 than under age 18.

Total genuine “quality of life” comes not just from the prescriptions we get at our local pharmacy to deal with the outer person, but is the reward of giving proper attention to the inner person as well. We seniors must be careful not to neglect a personal relationship with God through His Son, as well as regular doses of fellowship with other believers, prayer, and daily Bible reading. It is this “prescription” that renews us day by day and gives our life purpose and resolve.

SENIOR HAVEN

Senior Haven is a Seniors Ministry facility of Eastland Baptist Church located at 2001 S. 129th E. Ave in the Plaza 3 Shopping Center. This spacious, secure, well-equipped facility offers table games, crafts, exercise, and informative sessions with helpful tips about programs and amenities available to seniors.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10AM-2PM



WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM *Lively & Conservative Music*

Every Sunday worship service at Eastland Baptist Church strives to use music to glorify God, magnify His character, and encourage all that are present. The songs are uplifting and happy with words that are packed with promise and assurance. Everyone finds them easy to sing because they are familiar. Come join us this Sunday.

Servicios en Español



Vivimos en un mundo donde el mensaje de la palabra De Dios no es el más deseado de nuestros días, pero si es el más necesitado. Es por eso que quisiéramos invitarlo personalmente a uno de nuestros servicios en español en la Iglesia Bautista Eastland. Estamos convencidos de que algo muy emocionante está pasando en nuestra Iglesia. El mensaje del Evangelio de Salvación está siendo comunicado para cambiar vidas; las personas están siendo conectadas a Jesús a través de predicación bíblica y dinámica que expone el corazón De Dios en su Palabra, y a través de música que glorifica y magnifica el carácter de Dios. Además, todas las familias están siendo cuidadas por medio de nuestras clases de escuela dominical para todas las edades, que van desde sala cuna, hasta clases y actividades para adultos; y por sobre todas las cosas a través del cuidado de nuestro Pastor y la Iglesia Local. No se pierda la oportunidad de ser parte de lo que Dios está haciendo en nuestra Iglesia. Eastland no sólo es un lugar donde asistir, sino es un lugar donde crecer en familia.



LOST

By Jesse Becker
Music Pastor



I REMEMBER A TIME AS A SMALL CHILD when I was with my mother at a store and I became captivated by something that interested me. I'm sure it wasn't long, but a few moments later I was struck with tremendous fear as I looked up for my mother and could not see her. I scanned the aisle feverishly and began to panic. My next action was to call out her name in desperation, relieved to immediately feel her hand reach down for mine.

Now, as a parent, I have watched my children go through the same scenario; I saw them experience that moment of terror. I always knew exactly where they were; but in their world, I could have been miles away. They had the awful realization that they were lost—separated from their father. They instinctively knew that they could never find their way home without me. However, the good news is that I was never farther away than the call of my name.

The Bible tells us that we are in the same condition as that little child. There is no way we can find our way home to Heaven on our own. One passage in Isaiah 53 likens us to sheep that have gone astray. We have a nature that likes to go our own way. We think we can live as we'd like and that we will be able to figure out how to get to Heaven

when the time comes. Some think that living relatively good lives will qualify us. Some think that completing certain religious acts will cleanse our soul. But the Bible is very clear in Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one." No matter what one may think, the fact is that we are all people who have gone our own way and have sinned. That alone keeps us from living with God in Heaven someday.

When we realize that there is nothing we can do to find our way home, the dreadful fear of being lost strikes our heart. However, the good news is that all you must do to be found is call on the name of Jesus. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." It's that simple and that quick. You see, Jesus died on a cross for our sin and became the one and only way home to Heaven. The moment you call on Him to save you, God forgives all your sin and through Jesus' righteousness, reaches down to lead you home.

THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN FIND OUR WAY HOME TO HEAVEN ON OUR OWN.

Have you ever realized your lost condition? Have you recognized the fact that there is nothing you can do to get to God? If so, won't you call on His name today? He is ready to save you. I would love to hear of your decision; please come visit our church so we can rejoice with you that you have been found!



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