



## Mission Study Results... Revealed!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent mission study! Partnering with Matt Vaughan from Youth Ministry Institute of the Midwest, we asked the congregation to fill out surveys, which provided vital information. We also invited youth, parents, advisors, church officers, and the personnel committee to participate in group discussions. The goal of the study was to gather information and make recommendations for the children and youth ministry of Eastridge. It was an intense few days as we gathered together to share our thoughts, ideas, hopes, dreams, and frustrations with our children and youth ministry.

As a result of the study, after prayer and discernment, the session met to discuss the recommendations. A few things stand out to me from that discussion. First, the current leadership of the church is dedicated to revitalizing the children's and youth ministries. Our desire and vision for the ministry is simple. We want to share the love of Jesus Christ with children and youth. And while we may want to rush and fill the position, we want to also take the time to follow the process and discern what is next for our children and youth. We also want to take the time to talk, and listen, and pray, and dream. We are just not ready to make a permanent job description and a permanent hire.

However, the session was able to make two decisions regarding the

staffing position.

First, we believe that the person God is likely calling to our congregation is a layperson. Or, put another way, we believe we are a two-pastor congregation. Thomas and I have been asked to participate more with the children and youth ministries. Sometimes this means a formal teaching and leading role: Thomas has been working with the Confirmation class, I have been nurturing relationships with our young people at the Big Event, and Tuesday Faith Connection. We have also been looking for opportunities to involve our children



and youth in worship leadership, and intentionally leaving space for them.

Second, we believe the work of our interim director of children and youth ministries, Kris Adler-Brammer is vital to our current ministries, and have extended her contract through June of 2018.

These are just two moves toward our future. So what happens now?

During this time, it is important for us to not only pray for our children and youth ministry, but to consider how we might take part. There is a large body of research that tells us the most important influence in the faith formation of children and youth is in the relationships they form. We need you. Many of you are

praying for a young person whose card you took at the beginning of the school year. We invite you to continue to pray for them, and let them know. Reach out to them. We are still looking for volunteers to pick up students for our growing Faith Connection after school program on Tuesday afternoons. Or, perhaps you can come and help with snacks, or homework, or the lesson. Maybe you would consider being a youth group advisor, or a small group leader for our youth. We need our faith community to come together for our youngest members.

And, we need to evaluate our job descriptions and expectations. Part of Kris's job as interim is to help us identify what sorts of things should be in the job description, or should be taken out of the job description. How does that job description affect the other job descriptions of the team we have been assembling? And, again, what things can we and should we ask of our congregation? How will you all be involved?

All things considered, I believe it is an exciting time to be a part of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. I believe that we are already experiencing what our children and youth ministry might look like in the future. But as anyone with children knows, we can't wait for the future for my child. We need to take every moment and opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with our children and youth. Please consider how you can share in this ministry today!

~ Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon



## 2018 Stewardship Drive

Our 2018 Stewardship Drive begins this month! Please consider what you are able to give to fund the ministries of Eastridge Presbyterian Church in 2018. Watch for more information coming through the mail, including an estimate of giving card. Then, join us on October 22 as we dedicate our gifts!



Recently, the Session asked Bill Whiston, Treasurer, to make the following announcement: we are finding it very difficult to meet our financial obligations. In other words we are short on money. Meeting payroll is an issue as well the ability to pay our monthly bills.

The Finance committee, session committees and trustees are meeting to address the funding needs for the balance of the year. We are thankful for designated gifts, memorials, and endowment monies are currently providing funding for the many of the ministries of the church. However, we need to pay the utility bill, insurance, payroll, and building maintenance.

We are asking the congregation to step up and help us meet these needs. Either by honoring your pledge or considering what you can give. If current giving patterns hold, we anticipate \$160,000 in gifts for October, November, and December. We are asking everyone to consider what they can give so that we can increase that anticipated amount by \$40,000. This would bring our total income goal to \$200,000 in October, November, and December.

We would appreciate your help and prayers so that we can continue to maintain, to you and the community, our support as Eastridge Presbyterian Church.



## PER CAPITA

“In order to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity...” (Book of Order, G-9.0404), per

capita is the responsible way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian Church community expressing the essential unity of the church. The payment of this apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ.

It has been said that per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us throughout our country and the world. It is the necessary linkage in our connectional system. Each presbytery is responsible for the timely payment of per capita for the year (Book of Order, G-9.0404d).

The amounts that are apportioned and due as of January 1, 2017 are: \$36.00 per member

The per capita apportionment for a given year is based on the members of the churches two years earlier.

“Per capita is an opportunity for all... members of the Presbyterian Church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians “(GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

God bless us in our mutual ministry together!



## Outreach News:

### Update from Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has been a mission of Eastridge Presbyterian Church since Erasmo daSilva first connected us with the work of Habitat. Over the years, EPC members have helped with construction, provided food and snacks for workers, prayed for the mission, and supported it with financial contributions. This year Eastridge joined Sheridan Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian in sponsoring Faith Build 2017. Ground was broken on Saturday, September 23 at 2054 Kostal Ct, where a home is being built for Aliza. If you would like to be involved in the continued work on the construction of this home, please contact Christina at [czink@lincolnhabitat.org](mailto:czink@lincolnhabitat.org) and inquire about Faith Build 2017, or call the EPC office. Your generosity in fulfilling your pledge or other contributions to the EPC budget made it possible for us to be a part of making this home possible for Aliza and her family.

### Your Outreach Dollars at Work

Each year, when the annual EPC is determined, 10% of the total giving is allocated to Outreach and used to support various missions of PCUSA and the Lincoln community. Once the Outreach Committee knows how much is available to use, the amount is budgeted in 6 areas

- To support PCUSA missions around the world, in the Synod and the Presbytery

- Missions that offer Home and Opportunity to those in need
- Missions that address issues of Hunger
- Missions focused on Peace and Social Justice
- Missions involved with Education and Evangelism
- Emerging needs issues that develop throughout the fiscal year.

So far in 2017, EPC has supported the following from our committed budget:

- PCUSA Missions of the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery
- Local missions including Released and Restored, Habitat for Humanity, the Lighthouse, The Bay (from the Pentecost special offering), Tabitha Meals, Lutheran Refugee Services
- Camp Calvin Crest
- Hastings College
- PCUSA Theological Education Fund

Each year an amount is designated for Emerging Needs and is available as new needs develop throughout the fiscal year. To date, in 2017, we have used Emerging Needs funds to purchase mattresses for our Iraqi family, support Peter Dak's trip to build the church in Maker Village, and sent money to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) to support efforts to respond to the famine in South Sudan and Hurricane Harvey. Further support such as this is dependent on funds that become available during the rest of the year. The needs are many and the services PDA provides are well planned and beneficial to the

recipients.

We have also accessed the Roske Mission Fund to support our partnership with Lefler Middle School and the beginning of the Lefler Mobile Food Pantry. Hopefully, you have seen the pictures of the first Lefler pantry on Facebook and in the Welcome Center. It is off and running and much appreciated.

If possible, before the end of 2017, we hope to contribute our budgeted amounts to The Gathering Place, The Back Pack program, Berhane Yesus School in Ethiopia (where Bill Wehrbein and JP Carlson were), The Presbyterian Church in Pakistan (ministry of Majid Abel), the People's City Mission, Fresh Start, and the Presbyterian Girls' School in Pakistan (Veda Gill's school). We would also like to fulfill our commitment to the PCUSA missions.

Thank you so much for your generous giving to the EPC Budget, for together we can make a dent in the needs of God's people, both locally and around the world.

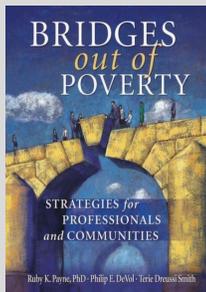
### The Outreach Committee

Jo Bateman, Moderator  
Chris Boone  
Noel DeKalb  
Deb Kilian  
Berna Stading  
Bill Wehrbein  
Pastor Thomas Dummermuth





Photos from the Lefler monthly Food Market, co-sponsored by our Eastridge Food Pantry!



## Bridges Out of Poverty: Mark this on your calendars!

Come join us for a potluck lunch following the 11:00 church service and an informational presentation from the Food Bank of Lincoln on "BRIDGES

OUT OF POVERTY" hosted by the Outreach Committee and Food Pantry Board. Potluck at noon followed by a presentation.

This workshop is a comprehensive approach to understanding poverty. Bridges Out of Poverty uses the lens of economic class and provides concrete tools and strategies for a community to alleviate poverty.

Participants will review poverty research, examine a theory of change, and analyze poverty through the prism of the hidden rules of class, resources, family structure, and language.

## Gathering Place volunteers –

With your help we were able to serve 3,144 meals in August! 100% of those meals included fresh food thanks to our partnerships with local agencies and wonderful donations from volunteers and the community

### What's New?

- An emergency/panic button was installed in the kitchen on the wall to the left of the sink. It will connect directly to 911 without needing to use a phone. As a volunteer, it is unlikely you'll need to use this but it is there for kitchen safety and for any unexpected needs that could arise. Hopefully it will gather dust, but it is there if ever

needed.

- **The Gathering Place is celebrating 35 years!** The celebration is planned for Wednesday Oct. 25 during the meal service. You will learn more about the details soon. I can tell you that we have been asking for comments about "what people love about the Gathering Place." Many of them mention the great volunteers, smiling faces and kind service. Thank you so much for all that you do to create a place where anyone can gather and enjoy a meal.

Thank you from myself and Operations Manager, James Reilly. Keep up the great work!

*Lisa Janssen*

**A+ Childcare Center is hiring!** We are looking for loving individuals to work with all ages both full and part time. Teacher requirements: Ensure the daily care of every child by following licensing guidelines and all company standards. Maintain a fun and interactive classroom that is clean and organized. Have a positive attitude and a love for children Applicants must have: 1) A high school diploma, 2) experience working with young children (coursework in early childhood education is a plus but not required), 3) be 18 years of age or older, and 4) have flexibility and be willing to work in different areas if required. If interested please call Cindy at 531-500-0602.



## Session Highlights for September 21, 2017

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the following items on the consent agenda;

Session Minutes for August 17, 2017.

Special Session Minutes for August 27, 2017 with Trustees.

Special Session Minutes/ Congregational Meeting September 3, 2017.

Affirm that Communion was served at 9:00 and 11:00 AM services on September 3, 2017.

Remove Norma Jean Owens from the member rolls, deceased 8/22/17.

Acknowledge that Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon co-officiated at the

funeral of Norma Jean Owens on 8/26/17 with Pastor Kerry O'Bryant.

Acknowledge that Rev Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the funeral of Richard E. Hall on 9/20/17 at Wyuka Funeral Home.

Approve the baptism of Baylor Irene Johnson, daughter of Lance and Brandi Johnson at a date to be determined.

Approve November 19, 2017 as EPW Thank Offering Sunday.

Motions:

It was moved and approved as brought forth by the Learn Commission to extend Kris Adler-Brammer's contract an addition 9 months (until June 2018) as the director of chil-

dren and youth Ministries; to recommend to COM the desire to dissolve the Associate Pastor position.

It was moved, seconded and approved to have someone (Merle Faubel and Bill Whiston volunteered) to speak from the pulpit regarding our financial situation.

It was moved, seconded and approved to have the Finance Committee discuss moving the fiscal year and report recommendations back to session.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the following gifts as recommended by Memorials and Endowments Committee: Bill Wood \$520; Norma Pederson \$508; Maxine Wolfe \$20; Camden Ireland \$50

## Pantry Shopping List

Cereal

Pancake Mix or Oatmeal Mix

Chef Boyardee Meals (Ravioli, Beefaroni, etc)

Dinty Moore Stews with Meat or Hormel Compleats

Canned Tomato Products

Diced Tomatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Tomato Paste

Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helpers

Feminine Products (Tampons, etc.)

Shampoo

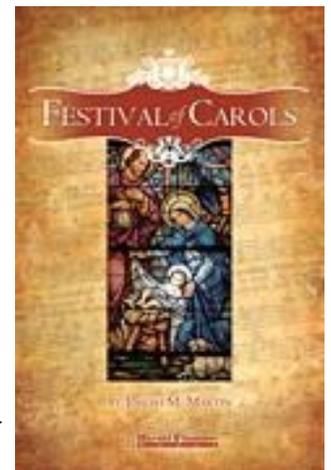
Deodorant

Help meet our year-end goal of 10,000 lbs of donated items! Thank you for your donations!



## The Music Ministry wants YOU!

It's never too early to be thinking about Eastridge's annual Christmas Cantata! We are looking for members who would like to join the choir and sing in the 2017 cantata, *A Festival of Carols* by Joseph Martin. Choir will be rehearsing cantata music from 7-7:30 on Wednesdays starting October 18. Additionally, we are looking to hold a rehearsal on Sunday mornings between worship services from 10:15-10:45 (except GiFT Sundays) if people are unable to attend Wednesday evenings. A music book and practice CD will be provided. Please contact Brian Lew if you are interested so that plans can be made accordingly.





## MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

**Faith Connection for Preschool Children:** For the last few weeks, our preschool aged children have gathered following *Worship Connection* at the 9:00am service for a lesson of their own. Each week they will hear the story we hear in worship. We are grateful for those who are volunteering with this group. To continue providing this learning opportunity for our youngest, we could use a couple more volunteers. If you are interested in teaching this class once a month, please talk with Jen Olsen or Kris Adler-Brammer.

**Faith Connection for Elementary Children:** We are having a GREAT time on Tuesday afternoons! Not only is our attendance consistent every week but it is growing! During our gathering the last Tuesday of September, we spent time learning about communion – what it is and why we do it. Since we had extra time, we made the communion bread that was used in worship on October 1. The children also learned how to set the table and they processed in with the elements and set the table.

We know folks are busy and schedules can change. If you haven't registered for the Afterschool Program, you still can. We are happy to have folks join us at any point during the school year.

As we grow, we could use more assistance in a couple of ways in order. If you would be willing to donate snacks, we could use goldfish crackers, granola bars, graham crackers, chex mix, popcorn, etc. We could also use some additional folks to help with transporting children from school to the church. Our final need for this program would be a couple of additional folks to help in the classroom. This would not involve preparing a lesson but would provide an additional set of hands for supervision and assisting with projects. If you can assist with one or more of these volunteer needs, please contact Jen Olsen or Kris Adler-Brammer.

# CHILDREN

## MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

**Faith Connection for Youth:** We have started our year off with a bang! For the last month, 20-24 middle and high school youth gather every Wednesday evening for dinner, fellowship, recreation and study. EPC is blessed to have a great group of young people as part of its worshipping community. Through the month of October, we will have our regularly scheduled meetings each Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Because we meet every Wednesday night for dinner, we could use a lot of volunteers to help provide a meal. If you or a group would be interested in providing dinner for this group, please contact Shirlette Hershiser or Kris Adler-Brammer. We can send you the link to sign up for a date that works for you.

**Mission Opportunities for Youth:** On Tuesday, October 31, the middle school and high school youth will gather at the church following school dismissal to participate in a mission/service opportunity. Watch your email and announcements for further information about the project.

# YOUTH



**TRUNK or TREAT:** On Friday, October 27, EPC will team up with A+ Academy to provide Trunk or Treat for the neighborhood. A+ will provide the indoor games, bouncy house and food for dinner. We would like to provide the trunks for the outdoor trick or treating. We would love to have as many people as possible who would bring their trunk and be willing to decorate it and hand out candy. If you would be willing to bring your trunk and help out, please talk with Kris Adler-Brammer. If you can't make it on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we could use your help with a donation of candy. Candy can be dropped off in the office or left in the bin marked "candy" in the Welcome Center.



## GiFT - Growing in Faith Together



Theme 2017-18: Sacred Ordinary Days  
Life-Giving Rhythms in a Fast-Paced Life

October 8: October GiFT we'll be celebrating the Season of Pentecost. Pentecost is not just a day, but the longest season of the church year, and an invitation to celebrate the gift of the God's Spirit who enables community beyond the barrier of culture and language.



Our presenter and preacher on October GiFT will be Rev. Doug Baker. Doug served as a Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Co-worker in Northern Ireland from 1979-2016 and continues to reside there. His primary focus has been on ministry of reconciliation in a context where centuries old religious, political and ethnic divisions led to nearly forty years of sectarian conflict.

Join us for October GiFT on October 8th - and wear your red, yellow, or orange!



November 12: November GiFT we'll explore All Saints Day.

All Saints is an invitation to celebrate and remember the community of Saints, both those gone before us and those living in our midst today.

In preparation for November GiFT: Please think of something you remember about the life in the congregation. This can be any kind of special memory or experience. Maybe there were a big milestone in the life of the congregation that you were involved in. Maybe there was a particular stepping stone in your own life. Maybe it is a funny story. Maybe there was a baptism during the winter months when the heat went out, so it was held at home... We will collect those stories in the weeks leading up to our November GiFT.

Join us for November GiFT on November 12th.  
Please note: this will also be our traditional Thanksgiving meal.

# GiFT

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

GiFT (short for "Growing in Faith Together") is a core ministry of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, wildly creative, and daringly intergenerational.

Who is GiFT for?

For everyone: For Singles, couples, moms and dads, college students, teenagers, kids, grandmas and grandpas, empty nesters, newcomers, working people, retired people, people with pets, and for those without. In short: for everyone (did we say that already?).

What are the goals of GiFT?

GiFT reclaims God's intent for faith to be shared in community and across generations. Through a shared experience — often missing from everyday life — of families learning together, sharing faith, praying together, serving and celebrating rituals and traditions, GiFT helps connect families and individuals who want to spend more quality time together. GiFT builds relationships between the generations and fosters teamwork across the congregation. By sharing our faith stories and learning from each other, we Grow in Faith Together.

What does a GiFT Sunday look like?

On the second Sunday of each month, GiFT invites people of all ages to worship, learn, and serve together.

Creative Worship

GiFT starts at 9 AM with a joint worship service for the whole congregation.

Event-Centered Learning

At the heart of GiFT is a shared learning experience that centers around the events of our community and engages all ages.

Gathered around the Table

A GiFT morning culminates in a time of fellowship and a meal together.

Faith at Home

GiFT offers practical ways to nurture the faith of families and individuals in our daily lives.

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Photos from two youth activities: Youth planning for the year, and the Amazing Race.



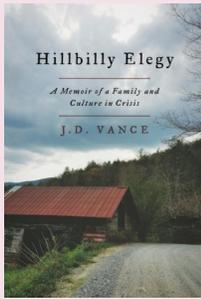
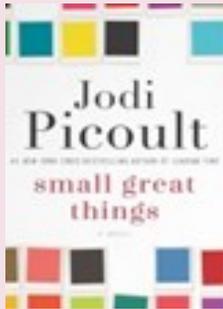


## Bistro Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.

**Bistro Theology:** Join us the last Monday of the month at The Piedmont Bistro for food, drinks, discussion. Bistro Theology is a gathering space for people of all faith and non-faith backgrounds to come together and respectfully dialogue and question over life, spirituality, culture and society. No agenda, no catch, no debates or shouting matches; a celebration of our community and how we can challenge and learn from each other.

**EPC Book Club:** Join us for discussion and refreshments the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Our selection for October is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance; our selection for November is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.



**Eastridge Ladies Night Out goes to the Sunday Matinee**  
Please join us Sunday, October 29 at 2pm at Nebraska Wesleyan Theater for the musical adaptation of the movie *Heathers*. *Heathers* is a dark comedy about a high school couple whose not so innocent attempts at revenge have deadly results. Mature audiences only. We will meet at the theater box office at 1:40, get our tickets and find our seats. Adult tickets \$17.50; Seniors (over 55) \$12; College Students (\$12). <https://www.nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets/current-season/heathers>.

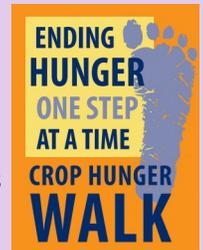


The **Huxtable Project** brochures were sent out in the mail last month. An architect rendering of the proposed remodel to Huxtable Lounge is on an easel in our Welcome Center, as well as one in the Lounge.

**Please pledge to make this dream a reality! We'd like to end the campaign October 8.**



The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk, a project of Church World Service, will be Sunday afternoon on October 8, beginning at New Hope United Methodist Church at 1205 North 45th St. The route is three miles long and there is a water stop at the half-way point, and popcorn, apples, and cookies at the end. Walkers obtain pledges of financial support from friends and relatives before the day of the walk. A quarter of these funds will be divided among seven local hunger programs, including Tabitha Meals on Wheels and our congregation's own food pantry. The rest will be used to fight hunger and poverty around the world. This is a great intergenerational mission event. Registration begins at 1:30 pm and the walking starts at 2:30 pm. If you are interested contact the church office.



We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the church and church staff for the beautiful service and luncheon for Camden's funeral. We had many compliments from family and friends for the church and food.  
~ The Ireland Family



**You're Invited!** Come join EPC Children's Music for some sweet music making! **Where:** Eastridge Presbyterian's choir room downstairs **When:** Wednesdays starting August 23 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm **What:** sing, play ukuleles, bucket drums, xylophones, music games, and more!



**Fall Clean Up:** Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 am—1:00 pm. We will be taking the garden items out of beds and other general fall cleanup. Join us! Many hands make light work.



We're looking for individuals willing to write for our **devotion ministry!** Contact the office if you are interested.

**EASTRIDGE**  
Presbyterian Church



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