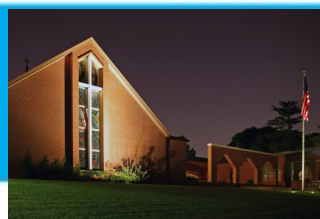


1From *Storylines - Connecting God's Story & Ours; Walking the Paths of God's Love: A Journey to Easter*, A Faithworks Discernment Guide for Weekly Bible Study of the Narrative Lectionary.



## Finding our Faith Stories

### A Small Group Experiment for Lent

I don't believe we Presbyterians are really God's 'frozen chosen.' Maybe we are a little shy when it comes to speaking about our personal faith. And that is ok. And yet, as Michael Curry says, as God's shy people we need to learn to share our stories in ways that are both meaningful and authentic.

This is where our Small Group Experiment for Lent "Finding our Faith Stories" comes in. With the dual goal of helping people in our church family identify and articulate their own faith stories and grow closer to one another in Christ, we invite you to join a faith story sharing group for Lent of 2018.

What does a faith story sharing group look like? For the course of Lent, we meet in groups of ideally 8 people and share with each other our faith stories, around

questions like: Why do I go to church? Why am I a Christian? What are some of my doubts? (How) Has Christian community changed my life?

Sign up now at the welcome center, online at [eastridge.org](http://eastridge.org) or by contacting the office.

**Group 1: Monday 6:30 PM (Doug & Mickey McDaniel)**

**Group 2: Wednesday 10:30AM (Donna Gustafson)**

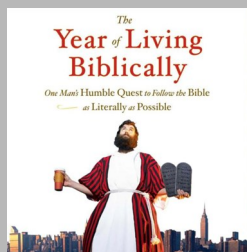
**Group 3: Wednesday 7PM (Chris Boden)**

**Group 4: Thursday 12PM (Melodie Jones Pointon/  
Thomas Dummermuth)**

\*"Finding our Faith Stories" curriculum developed by Rev. Stephanie Anthony, Pastor at Fox Valley Presbyterian Church in Geneva, Illinois. Adapted use provided courtesy of the author.



## Living Biblically Premieres on February 26, 8:30 Central on CBS

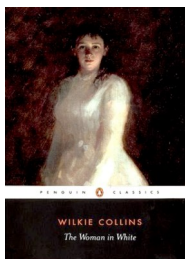


Last Fall, we read together AJ Jacob's memoir about his attempt to live all the commandments of the Bible for an entire year. Now, his book has been adapted for a new TV show. Check it out!

**The Social Justice Committee at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln** has invited members of Eastridge to a presentation by Sen. Adam Morfield concerning important bills coming up in the Nebraska Legislature. Join us Friday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. at 6300 A St.



**EPC Book Club:** Our selection for the month of February is *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. We'll meet Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm in the Conference room for discussion and refreshments. Join us! A copy of this year's list is available on the church website; go to the calendar and click on the Book Club link.



Eastridge Presbyterian Church is being honored by Tabitha's Meals on Wheels program at their donor and volunteer recognition luncheon. If you have been or are currently delivering Meals on Wheels and would like to attend the luncheon on March 7 at 11:30am-1p.m. at Embassy Suites, please let Nan Nelson know. Reservations need to be in by February. 2.





**The Huxtable project:** Construction is well under way on the Huxtable Project! Our progress as of January 29 is as follows: the asbestos has been removed, the demo phase is complete, the electrical work is nearly complete, work on the sprinkler system has begun, the island has been framed, the cabinets and countertop are ordered, and the carpet is ordered. Upcoming items for this week are: wiring for the sound system, and completion of the electrical and sprinkler systems. As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, a "wish list" of items is being compiled, and will be made widely available the beginning of March. Items currently on the list are: appliances, an automatic handicap accessible door mechanism, some furniture items, a tile backsplash, a speaking podium, and a ceiling mount projector and screen. We are excited for the progress that has been made, and thankful for your gifts that are making it all happen! *The Huxtable Project Committee is: Larry Graham, Bryce Hastings, Sandy Hilsabeck-Hastings, Melodie Jones Pointon, Carmen Kelle, Alinda Stelk, Barry Stelk, and Bill Whiston.*

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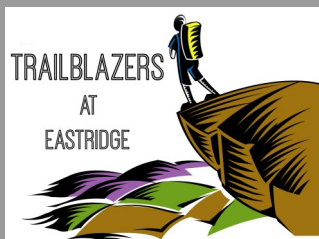
We are compiling a list of **EPC members who are currently serving actively in the military or have served in the military in the past.** If you are serving currently in the military or are a veteran

having served in the past, or know of an EPC member who is/has served our country, please share their name with Donna in the office ([office@eastridge.org](mailto:office@eastridge.org)) or Patty Niemann at [pnemann54@gmail.com](mailto:pnemann54@gmail.com). And thank you for your service!

### Trailblazers for February:

Join us on February 16 for Remembrances. Those attending are invited to bring an item (or photo of it) to "show and tell" its meaning to you. We meet at 7:00 p.m.

Location to be announced as Huxtable is being remodeled.



A "story" in the life of Eastridge: Each month we'll share some of the responses we received on the cards from our November GiFT:

- "going to Triennium with the High school youth group and having lots of fun and making new friends" (2016)
- "All Sunday School classes (or most) were held in Fellowship Hall. Wooden room dividers were used to separate classes. But it was still rather noisy" (1950s)

## Church Memories

### Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thanks to everyone who gave of their time and resources, (you know who you are). It made my recovery from knee surgery much easier. God bless and with heartfelt thanks, Randy Towle.

### grat-i-tude

[grat i tood]

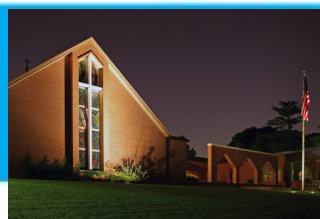
noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

**Interested in joining Eastridge?** We will be having a new member orientation on Sunday, February 25 between services. Even if you would like to transfer your membership from another Presbyterian church, we'd like this opportunity to get to know you better!







## Session Highlights for January 18, 2018

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the consent agenda as amended:

Session Minutes for December 21 2017.

Session Retreat Minutes for January 6, 2018.

Affirm that communion was served at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services on January 7, 2018.

Affirm removal of inactive mem-

bers from the list approved at the December Session meeting (Clerk's report).

Remove Beryl Boerner from member rolls, deceased 1-15-18.

Motion to confirm the special session meeting with confirmands on Saturday April 14, 2018 at 9:30 AM.

Motions:

It was moved, seconded and approved to recommend changing the By-Laws of the congregation to move from 36 Deacons to 24

Deacons.

It was moved, seconded and confirmed that Bill Wehrbein and Andrew Loudon will be the commissioners to the Presbytery Meeting on February 17, 2018 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



## Make plans now to join us for our **Intergenerational Mission Trip** 2018!

Join us with your family and friends as we travel to provide Hurricane Relief in Florida!

Who: Family and friends of EPC who are 10 years (must be accompanied by parent/guardian) and older. Youth (6th grade-12 grade) who are interested are invited.

Where: We will be based out of First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, Florida. We will be using some of our connections at FPC Lakeland (yes, that's Pastor Mike Loudon's church!) to connect with parts of Florida that need help.

When: We are looking at dates around July 8-15, 2018. We will fly down and back.

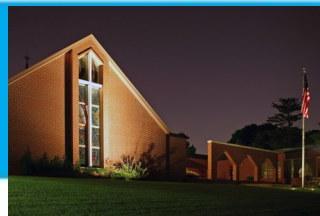
What: We hope to be doing mostly reconstruction work, but will be doing whatever is most needed!

How much: Current trip projections are \$600/person. Every participant will be asked to contribute at least \$300, participation in fundraisers will make up the difference. Want to know more? Contact the office or Pastor Melodie. How do I secure my spot? A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due March 23, 2018. Space may be limited after that date.



Sign up to provide a crockpot of soup for our **Lent Suppers!** Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 14), we will have a meal prior to our Lenten worship. Sign up by calling the office, or contact the office for a link to Sign Up Genius. Worship begins at 6:30 pm each Wednesday, including Ash Wednesday.





## UPDATE



Dear Eastridge Church Family,

Greetings! Though I have not seen you since June, I thank you for your presence in my life through your prayers and support. It is my joy to update you on how the third year of my seminary journey is progressing. God has richly blessed this season. The biggest joy to share with you is that I am engaged! My fiancée, Hope Edwards, is both a fellow Lincoln-ite and Gordon-Conwell seminarian. In high school, our paths crossed as acquaintances when we served as youth advisors to LPS for two years. After we graduated from our respective colleges, our paths reconnected here at the

seminary. We are confident that our Lord is leading us into full-time gospel ministry together! We will marry June 2, 2018, at our church in Boston near the seminary.

Turning to academics, I am a year and a half away from graduating with my Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theology (ThM) in Preaching in Spring 2019. I have decided to add the ThM as a final year because I perceive my calling is to a preaching ministry. The MDiv is a generalist degree, with only two preaching courses, so the ThM will enable me to truly master the preaching discipline. Over this past semester, I had five classes (an above-average load). Two classes of note focused on the practical aspect of ministry: Pastoral Ministry and Transforming Leadership in the Local Church. These two classes were taught by a PCUSA professor with 30+ years of pastoral ministry experience. Between these two classes, I studied church life-cycles and paradigms, theology of worship and creating orders of worship, pastoral care and counseling, leadership and conflict-resolution, case studies of church crises, and more. These will be lessons I draw upon for decades of ministry to come.

In terms of ministry activity, Hope and I have been involved with our local church. We taught 3rd-5th grade Sunday School, are being mentored by couples in our church, and are part of a team to help craft a vision for discipleship within the church. Over this past Christmas break, I preached at my home church, Desert Palms, in AZ. The scripture was James 1:22-25 and I entitled the sermon, 'Just Do It.' God's message was that we are to hear and do the Word. A few days after preaching a friend from church thanked me for the sermon. He shared with me that as a result of hearing the sermon he had decided to join the pastor's Bible study that Monday. I cannot imagine any better result from this sermon! Praise God for how He works through preaching.

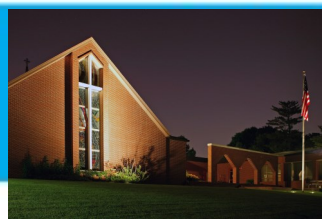
Finally, as Hope and I prepare for Gospel ministry together, we have made a ministry website: [www.HopeVenturesForTheGospel.com](http://www.HopeVenturesForTheGospel.com). Here, you can read about our call to church ministry and seminary training toward that end. On our website you will find a way to sign up to receive our 'HOPEful updates.' These are monthly email newsletters we will send out with prayer requests, tidbits of what we are learning in classes, stories from ministry, and updates concerning ordination and our future (this will replace my Facebook blog). Our website also lists a couple ways to financially partner with us and provides status updates of our goals. Again, thank you for your support over the years! I could not do seminary without your prayerful and financial support. To God be the glory!

Warmly yours in Christ,

Ben Crelin







## Faith Connection for Youth:

Sunday, February 4, the Middle School and High School **youth will lead worship** at the 9:00am & 11:00am service. Worship will focus on the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. During the services, the youth will share their work with you as they have written the prayers and liturgy along with three of the youth who will share the sermon for the day. We hope you will be able to join us!



are hungry. This year, EPC youth will collect money for the Souper Bowl of Caring after the two services on February 4th. The monies collected will go to the food pantry at EPC in order to help purchase food to serve our clients. We hope you will prayerfully consider giving as the youth work to “tackle” hunger right here in our community.



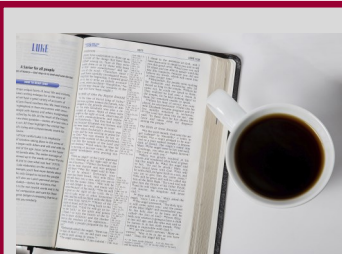
On Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the youth of EPC are going to change up the traditional Valentine’s Day dance and invite you to join them for a **Trivia Night**. In our own fellowship hall, you and your

intergenerational team will compete to be the first annual trivia champ! (HINT: the more intergenerational your team is, the better your score will be.) We will begin the evening at 6:00pm. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be provided at each table so you can have food and fellowship as your team works to earn that 1<sup>st</sup> Place title. We will begin the evening at 6pm and conclude around 7:30pm. In order to ensure that we prepare enough food and tables, please sign up on the sheets located at the Welcome desk. We hope to see you there!



On Sunday, February 4th, the youth will collect the **Souper Bowl of**

**Caring** offering. This offering was developed Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina 28 years ago. At that first offering collections, the youth asked the congregation to give a dollar or two to aid in “tackling” hunger for the cities homeless population. 28 years and several thousand churches/ organizations later, the Souper Bowl of Caring has collected millions of dollars to help feed those who



### Christ, Culture, and Coffee!

All High School students are invited to join this new weekly group! We will meet Sunday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 at the

Scooters on 70th and O (near Best Buy) to explore the relationship between faith and life. Led by Pastor Melodie and Kara Hilzer.

Attention all Parents of Youth!



Its time for us to share, celebrate, and plan! Join Pastor Melodie and Shirlette Hershiser (Elder for Learn/Youth) Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm in M12. During this time, we will share the summer plans for youth so you can make plans to attend. We also want to share with you the process for filling the permanent Director of Children and Youth Ministries position. We want your input and ideas, so please come and join us!

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



## 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. Next meeting is February 26!

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

Here is a list of our Pantry needs: Cooking Oil, Sugar, Salt, Chili Beans, Beef Stew or Canned Chili, Oatmeal mixes, Potato and Rice meals (e.g. Instant Potatoes, scalloped potatoes, Uncle Bens, Rice-a-roni) Laundry detergent, Dish soap. For some ideas of where to go that I've spotted – Dollar Tree sells Large jugs of detergent and full-size dish soaps for \$1. Big Lots sells canisters of Salt for \$0.50 and has good deals on canned food. Dollar Tree often has better deals than the grocery store on many items that our Pantry uses.

~ Heather Douglas, Eastridge Food Pantry

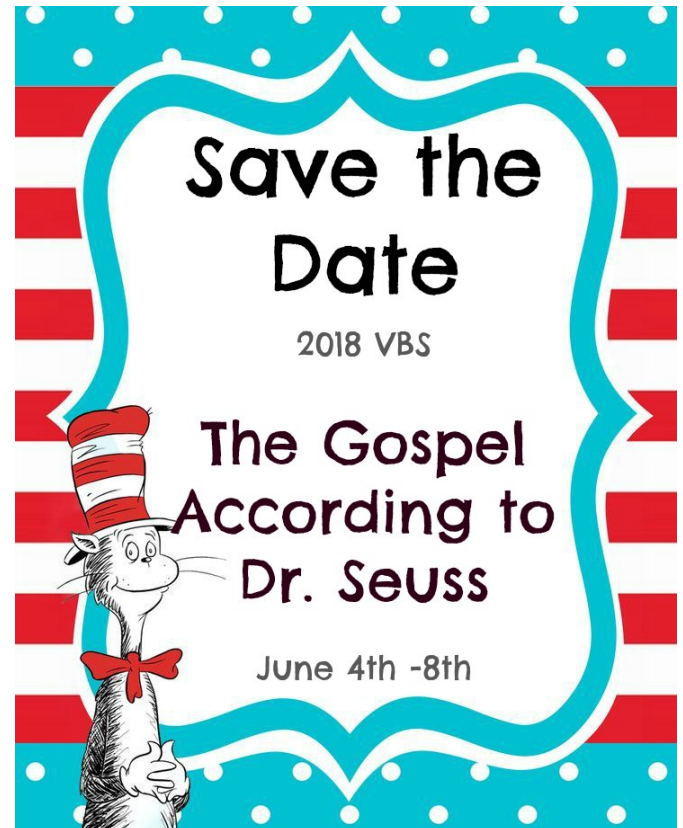


**Winter Weather Policy:** If severe winter weather threatens the safety of those attending events here at the church, the decision may be made to cancel those events. If LPS closes, the church will **often** (not always) cancel its events for the day, including office hours.

## CALLING ALL QUILTERS:

Mark your calendar and save the date for a day of stitching at the 2018 Quilts of Valor National Sew Day to be held at EPC in Roeske Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 3 from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. If you would like more detailed information, contact Judy Lane at [judithblane@yahoo.com](mailto:judithblane@yahoo.com) or call 402-466-4541.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.



**Welcome to our new choral scholar! I'm Jimmy Lowe.** I'm a sophomore English major at Nebraska Wesleyan University. I'm a Peer Assistant in the residence halls and a writing tutor at the writing center on campus. My current goal is to eventually be an English professor.



**EASTRIDGE**  
Presbyterian Church



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