

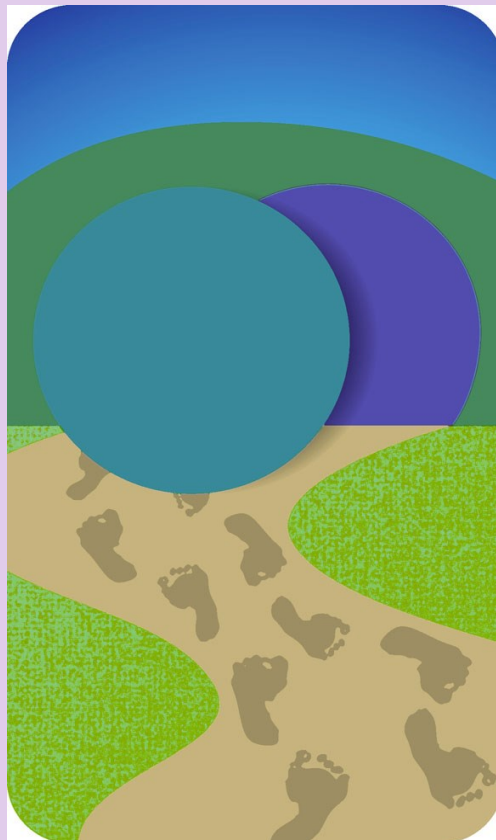
## From the Pastor's Pen...

Our kindergarten daughter has been learning to read, write, and tell stories at school. We were excited then, when we recently received a suggested "Practice at Home" exercise, to help her with these skills. Part of this practice is to ask the following questions: what happened, who else was there, when did this happen, where did it happen, and has it happened before?

April and May are big months for us here at Eastridge! There are many exciting events on our calendars including Easter, baptisms, Confirmation Sunday, Graduate Sunday, and our 65th Anniversary on Mother's Day. This edition of the Newsletter will offer more information about all of these things, as well as information about new and ongoing ministries like Faith Connection, Bistro Theology, GiFT Sunday, and summer worship. It's fun to plan and prepare for all these things, but sometimes I wonder if these events and activities take us away from asking these basic questions of each other, of our faith stories,

and of the Biblical texts we are studying.

In part, that's what our worship and studies have been about this year as we've worked our way through the Narrative Lectionary – re-



telling, re-learning, re-examining the Biblical story as a whole. Beginning with creation and moving through the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), working through John's Gospel, and now moving into Acts and Philippians, we are

able to ask these questions of the Biblical narrative (story). Hopefully, this has brought out some questions about our own lives and stories of faith. It certainly has for me!

When I was a little girl, my family had a record player. Of course, my parents had some records of real, good, music like the Beatles and Fleetwood Mac. But my favorite records were the ones that accompanied books – particularly, the creation story, Palm Sunday, and Easter. To this day, I can't read or hear these stories without also having that memory soundtrack. Furthermore, every time I ask those questions of these stories, I learn something new.

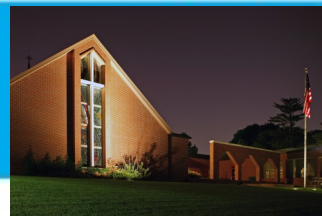
As we explore our individual and shared story of faith, let us remember that the best stories answer these simple questions: what happened, who else was there, when did this happen, where did it happen, and has it happened before?

May we see God in our faith stories! Happy Easter!

~Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Eastridge was the recipient of an award during a Tabitha recognition luncheon recently. EPC has been serving Tabitha Meals on Wheels since 1990. From the luncheon program: *"Tabitha is ever grateful for caring congregations like Eastridge Presbyterian."* Check out the award at the Welcome Desk!



Nan Nelson, MOW coordinator for EPC, accepting the award



## Eastridge welcomes these new members!

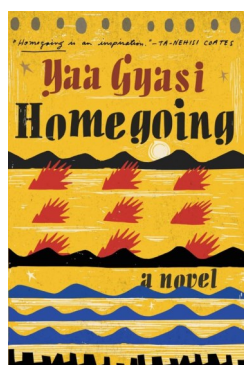
Shawn and Eden Houska, Chris and Stephanie Hansen and children Caden and Cloe, Jennifer Smith and Mike Hanson and children Natalie and Declan, Cameron and Kylie Meter, and Kirstine and Nate Rios and children Lillian and Charlotte.



Friday April 13th Ladies Night Out goes out to dinner! Meet us at 7pm at The Piedmont Bistro - if the weather is nice we will dine on the patio!

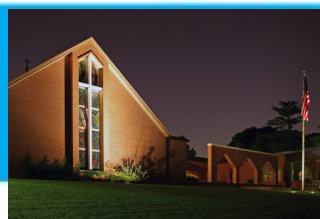
Please rsvp to Shirlette's Facebook invite or call Christi at 402-805-4031 to help us make our reservation.

**EPC Book Club:** Our selection for the month of April is Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. We'll meet Monday, April 9 in the Conference Room. Discussion leader is Judith Keller; refreshments by Susan Taylor. Book club members, start thinking about ideas for next year's selections!



**Greeting at Eastridge:** I would like to thank the many members who have greeted at the Welcome Center door for 9 & 11 o'clock services. If there is a Sunday you would like to greet, please call me at 402.489.5613 and tell me the date and which service.  
~Sandra Hilsabeck





**FOOD PANTRY NEWS:** The food pantry has been busy this winter. Along with new volunteers we are also welcoming new clients – both are excit-

ing. Your support has been vital to helping the community. Our clients constantly tell us how grateful they are and how much it helps them and their families. Our current needs are:

- Cooking oil
- Sugar, Flour, Salt
- Canned Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges
- Oatmeal, Pancake syrup
- Mayo, mustard, pickles
- Laundry Detergent, dish soap

The above list is not all inclusive, we take all types of food and items for our shelves. During your spring cleaning, remember our pantry when cleaning out your own kitchen pantries. We also can receive your financial donation to really make your dollars stretch at the Lincoln Food Bank, so please consider a monetary donation to the pantry. Thanks again for all your support!

*Heather Douglas, Eastridge Food Pantry*

**A note on the tabs attached to our Food Pantry cart in the Welcome Center:** These “partner” churches often donate food to our Food Pantry, and we’re just making it easier for them to let us know what they’ve donated. All food donated in the cart stays here at Eastridge for our Food Pantry and our partnership with Lefler Elementary.

## Tuesday Afternoon Faith Connection

**Dinner!** If you have a child in Faith Connection on Tuesday afternoons, we invite you and your family to join us for dinner! We know spring evening commitments make life more hectic. We also know it can be hard to tear the kids away from the chance to play outside. A simple dinner will be served on the patio or in the Huxtable (depending on weather) from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm during April and May. Hope to see you there!



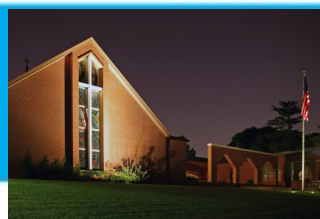
## “I Can’t Believe That’s in the Bible!”

Have you ever read a biblical text or story and been shocked? Intrigued? Curious? This summer, we’d like to explore these texts. But we need your help to discover them! Submit texts to [office@eastridge.org](mailto:office@eastridge.org), or use the form at the Welcome Center desk. Submissions must include your name and email address or phone number.



**Easter Breakfast:** At 6:30 am we will meet for worship, with breakfast to follow. Breakfast will be served in the Huxtable Lounge. Worship will be either on the East Patio and/or the Narthex, depending on the weather.





## UPDATE FROM ADAM ALEXANDER:

After wrapping up my fifth summer at Calvin Crest, I started an internship at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, AR. Ferncliff sits on around 1200 acres, of which it uses 200. It serves the Arkansas Presbytery and the Presbytery of the Pines. I live on site with 3 YAVs and another intern, which is a fantastic opportunity to practice intentional Christian community. We as a house have taken the initiative to make updates to our housing, which is an ongoing process of sharing ideas and working together to make them reality. Through our efforts we're transforming the house, which we named Creekside, from a random furniture graveyard (think "early 2000's church youth room") into a cozy living space.

The internship finds me swept up in the year-round operations of a camp, which is a personal dream come true. So far I've gained hands-on experience

in camp programming, site management, and fund-raising/marketing. A good portion of the internship is dedicated to helping me discern a path for my life, which has been beneficial. It has given me a chance to practice being still and listening to God.

Aside from the camp work, I have seen some of the amazing ways the Presbyterian church provides avenues for people to get involved through disaster relief, environmental stewardship, and mission work. It is a good time to be a young adult in the Church; and with the guidance of God's spirit, and the support of the body of Christ (you, me, all of us), may we witness what our God can do!

Peace be with y'all.

**Adam Joseph Lee Alexander**

*Camp and Conference Intern, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center; Children's Church Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta*



**Annual Interfaith Peacemaking Workshop**, Sunday April 15 at 1:30 pm. First United Methodist Church, 50th St. and St. Paul Ave. (use eastside entrances). Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard

Pitts, Jr., "When we stand with others": reflection and action on ways people from differing backgrounds and races can grow in understanding and support each other, and how to have a civil exchange with those with whom you disagree. Panel discussion with NWU VP T. J. McDowell, LPD captain Minchon Morrow, city council member Bennie Shobe, LPS cultural specialist Oscar Rios Pohirieth, and ACLU director Danielle Conrad.

## Church Memories

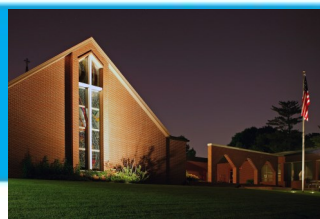
A "story" in the life of Eastridge: Each month we'll share

some of the responses we received on the cards from our November GiFT:

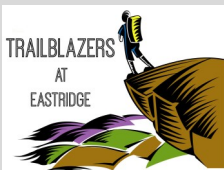
- In 1978-1980 "the youth and high school choir had many members who were on honor choir recognition and Eastridge traveled to Omaha and sang for other church services during this time."
- In 1993, "the sanctuary was under construction to update the air-conditioning system. Worship services were held in Fellowship Hall from January-March."

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



**Trailblazers** for April is the annual "Dine Out" dinner. Also, Trailblazers are on the calendar to serve at The Gathering Place April 23.



## Have You Noticed?

We are busy sprucing up our grounds and building for Easter, Spring, and our Anniversary! Thank you to the Memorial and Endowments Committee for approving the funds for these improvements. Thank you also to all those who have donated time and talent to painting, cleaning, weeding, gardening, raking, detailing, and just keeping things in good order!

**Spring Clean Up!** The date for our annual spring clean up is Saturday, April 7. Please join us that day at 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm; we'll be doing primarily outside clean up. If possible, bring rakes, gloves, etc. Mostly, though, just bring yourself!



**The Music Ministry** would like to extend an extra thank you to all who provided music during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services. Your musician-ship and dedication to leading worship has not gone unnoticed!



**DOCTORAL RECITAL BY BRIAN LEW** - Sunday, April 8: Brian Lew, our Adult Choir Director, will present his final bass trombone recital on Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 pm in Kimball Recital Hall, on the UN-L campus, as part of his Doctoral of Musical Arts requirements. A reception will follow Brian's recital in Westbrook Music Building, just west of Kimball Hall, in Room 110. Please join us as we help Brian celebrate his musical and educational accomplishments!

**FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT:**  
As the summer approaches, the EPC music department

is looking for individuals and groups to provide special music for our 9:00 worship service each Sunday beginning May 27th and extending through Sept. 2nd. If you are interested in sharing your musical talents as we glorify God together each Sunday, please contact Patty Niemann, music coordinator. We would also welcome others to provide special music if you will be having out-of-town friends or extended family who are musicians visiting during the summer.

## MUSIC SCHEDULE FOR APRIL and MAY

April 1 - Easter Sunday - Chancel Choir, Kirk Ringers and Eastridge Brass

April 8 - Chancel Choir

April 15 - Special Music - Choral Scholars

April 22 - Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers

April 29 - Chancel Choir

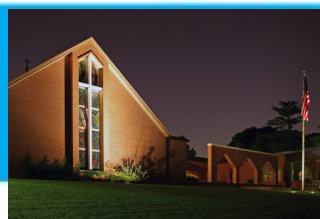
May 6 - Chancel Choir

May 13 - Mother's Day and EPC 65th Anniversary - Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers

May 20 - Chancel Choir

May 27 - Special Music: Nancy Hall and Brian Lew





Over the past few months the Outreach Committee has begun to reflect on

our congregation's involvement with Presbyterian mission work in the Horn of Africa, especially South Sudan. In 2009 Associate Pastor J. P. Carlson and I travelled to western Ethiopia to help students at Berhane Yesus school improve their English language skills. Eastridge continues to support this school with a gift from our mission budget. Since then we have supported Aqua Africa's well and irrigation projects, and recently hosted the Ethiopian Mission

Conference. With the assistance of Western Gambella Presbytery and Presbyterian mission co-workers in that area we have helped to build a new church in the South Sudanese village of Maker, where EPC member Peter Dak was raised. It seems that this area of the world has become a passion for our congregation.

Is it time for Eastridge Presbyterian Church to consider establishing formal mission partnerships with mission co-workers in the South Sudan, Western Gambella Presbytery, and the Maker Village? Over the past month Pastor Thomas and several Eastridge members have had the opportunity to visit with Presbyterian Mission Advisor Rhonda Kruse and Debbie Braasma, coordinator of PCUSA work in Africa, who have

shared their advice and insights.

And the Outreach Committee has begun to wrestle with hard questions, such as "Why do we want to have an ongoing relationship with a church body in another country?", "What needs does our congregation have that might be met by having such a relationship?", and "What gifts (spiritual, personal, and material) do we have to share with a partner?"

The discussion is ongoing, and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact me through the church office or at [wmw@NebrWesleyan.edu](mailto:wmw@NebrWesleyan.edu) for details.

*Bill Wehrbein*  
Outreach Committee chair



*"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."— Basil Hume OSB OM*

the grave. This event that forms the foundation of our faith invites us to deepen our belief in the mastery that life follows death. The broader season of Easter, or Eastertide, lasts fifty days. During that time, we also observe Jesus' ascension into heaven and the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church on the Day of Pentecost, which marks the end of the season.

Come join us for our last GiFT celebration of the year on April 8th!

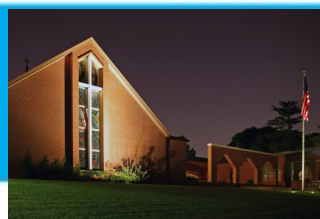
## April GiFT: The Easter Season

### "In Our End Is Our Beginning"

Easter is the pinnacle of the liturgical year. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ from

Bistro Theology: Join us the last Monday of the month at The Piedmont Bistro for food, drinks, discussion. Next meeting is April 30!

*Bistro Theology*  
FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.



**The Huxtable Project** is complete, and we are excited to start using it! Please drop in to the space and check it out! We are still looking for some specific items to be donated, including: a commercial under-cabinet refrigerator, dishwasher, two loveseats, two club chairs, two guest chairs, 2 storage ottoman/end tables, accessible entry mechanism for the alley door. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Barry and Alinda Stelk, Bill Whiston, or the office. If you would like to book a wedding or baby shower, a graduation or anniversary party, a birthday celebration, or any other event in the Huxtable, please contact the office!

Huge thank you to those who have donated to the wish list!



## Save the Date for EPC's 65th Anniversary Celebration!

In 1953, several families and individuals gathered for worship on Mother's Day, and the birth of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. Join us Saturday, May 12, and Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, for the following special events to celebrate our 65 years!

### ♦ Saturday, May 12, 2-4 pm

It's a Birthday Party! Join us outside for cake, ice cream, and lemonade! There will be games and activities for kids of all ages (newborn-102!) And - take a tour of the building! Invite your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances! Come one, come all!

### ♦ Saturday, May 12, 6 pm

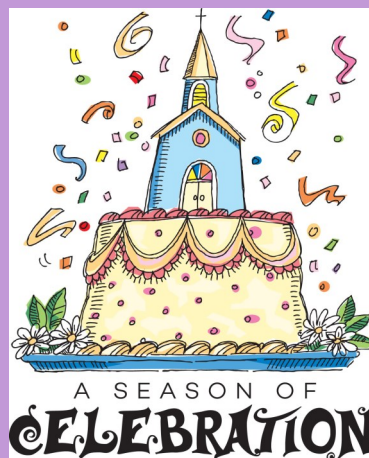
Founder's Dinner - This special dinner will be a time for our long-term members to gather together and reminisce about the early days of EPC. Reservations required, cost and place TBA.

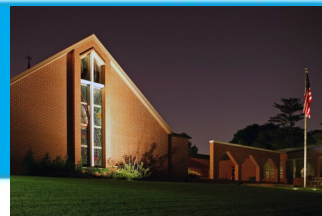
### ♦ Sunday, May 13, 9 & 11 am

"Praises of the Early Church" - We will gather for worship at our regular service times, giving God thanks and praise for our 65 years!

### ♦ Sunday, May 13, 10:30 am

Dedication of the Huxtable Renovation Project - Rev. Dr. Tom Huxtable served as the founding and first installed pastor of Eastridge, leaving a legacy of family, faith, and neighborhood connections. Along with some very special invited guests, we will once again dedicate this room in memory and honor of Rev. & Mrs. Huxtable.





**VBS will be here soon!** This year our theme is “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss.” Each day the children will hear a Dr. Seuss story and learn how that story is connected to a Bible story from one of the four Gospels. The Seuss stories we will be using are: How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Yertle the Turtle, The Zax, Bartholomew and the Oobleck and Oh the Places You’ll Go.

We are excited to share that this year we will be partnering with First Presbyterian Church. It will be fun for us to welcome our downtown neighbors. In addition to the children of First joining us, we will also have some additional adult leaders. While we do have some of the spots filled, we are in need of several more volunteers in order to make the week happen. Currently, we have the following needs:

- Storytelling/Lesson time – this group of volunteers will share the Bible story with the children (that will include tying in the Seuss story). It will involve reading/showing the story as well as helping the children understand what the Bible story means. It will also include some sort of short activity to help with comprehension. Those working in the Storytelling/Lesson time will remain in one location and the children would come to you. We need one more adult for storytelling/lesson time.
- Snack time – this group of volunteers would prepare the snack and share how this snack

(possibly) goes with this lesson. They might also have some basic information about the lesson in order to talk with the children about what they are learning. We need three to four adults for snack time.

- Craft time – this group of volunteers would prepare and lead the crafts for each age group. The time would begin with some lesson basics to help the children understand why they are making that particular craft and

then they will lead the children in making the craft. We need two to three adults for craft time.

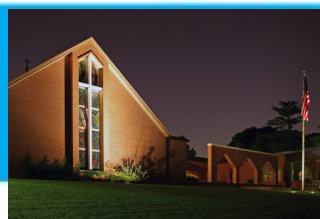
- Shepherds – The children will be divided into age groups. Shepherds will be assigned to a specific age group and then they will go with the children to each of the stations throughout the morning. The shepherds do not need to prepare or teach a lesson. They will assist the activity time leaders in each rotation. The shepherds can/will be a combination of adults and youth. We will need seven to eight adults to be shepherds.



Now, besides needing volunteers, we need KIDDOS! Within the next week or so, we will open registration. We hope to have ways to do this electronically as well as on paper/in person to make it the most convenient for all!

If you have the time to volunteer or if you have additional questions, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at ([dcym@eastridge.org](mailto:dcym@eastridge.org)).





## Summer Camp Registration Now Open

The Summer Camp Post Cards are in the mail, but no need to wait for them. Register Today to reserve your spot. Head to [www.calvincrest.org](http://www.calvincrest.org). Still More Questions: Send me an email at [camp@calvincrest.org](mailto:camp@calvincrest.org). We look forward to seeing you this summer. ~Craig Huffman, Executive Director



We are updating our list of college students. If you have a young adult in college, would you please email Kris Adler-Brammer ([dcym@eastridge.org](mailto:dcym@eastridge.org)) with their name, college and year in school. This will help us to know where our young adults are and help us to continue supporting them.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

**CONFIRMATION:** **Branden Matthew Hiller**

The Confirmation service will be April 15, at 11 am.

**Logan Hunt**

**Alivia Kinnaman**

**Anastacia (Ana) Rankin**

**Tanner Rankin**

**Ella Wies**

There will be an opportunity to meet the confirmands between 10 to 11am.

Confirmands are:

**Maya Faye Boden**

**Nyawuol Dak**

### MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

On Sunday, April 29 we will celebrate our graduating High School seniors at the 9:00am service. Following the service, we will have a reception in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us as we recognize this group.





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