



From the Pastor's Pen...

It was Mother's Day in 1953 when a group of folks gathered for the first worship service of what was proposed to be called "Countryside Community Church." Nebraska was a growing community, and that growth was about to expand on the east side of the city. For many, it was hard to imagine, as the farmland stretched between Piedmont and the Veterans' Hospital. For many years, the Presbyterian Church kept an eye on the growth, waiting for the perfect time to begin a new church. Rev. Harold Wilson was tasked with surveying the area, visiting potential members, and discerning the right time.

Some had just recently moved to Lincoln: from all around the country, from across the state of Nebraska. Some came from other Presbyterian churches: from Westminster, Fourth, and Second. Some came with different church backgrounds: from Methodist, Baptist, and Congregationalist traditions. All were seeking one thing: a church home.

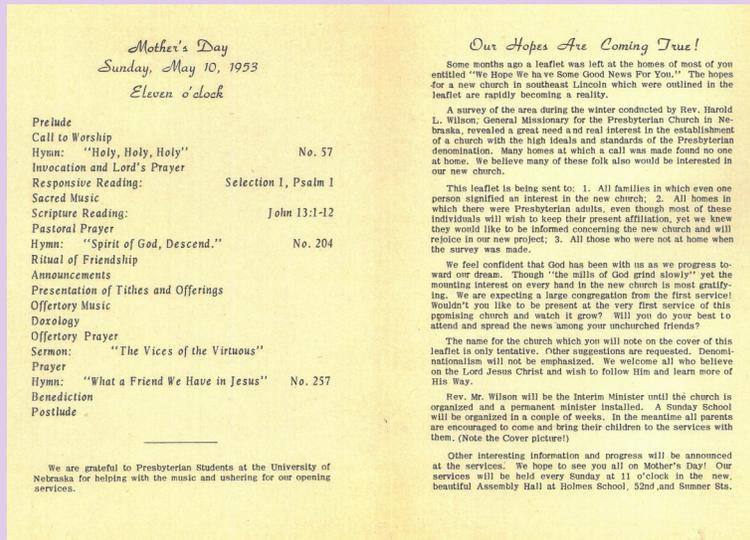
It's always fun to celebrate an anniversary. As a historian, it gives me a chance to review original documents and piece together the story of "what happened when." I love to hear the stories of the folks who were a part of those "first days." You can still hear the excitement in

their voices as they remember the people and places that were here in the beginning. And, it's fun to connect the past with the present.

As we looked through our records and documents, it was fun to share with staff some of the articles from the first newsletters! There were articles about the challenges of finding volunteers for the quickly growing children and youth ministries; opportunities for growth and discipleship for adults – Bible studies, men's

There are announcements about new members, prayer joys and concerns, and personal accomplishments. And, there are updates about our finances, and the celebration of our fundraising efforts to complete the circle of renovations on our building.

It is always humbling to realize the great cloud of witnesses we join in this place: their sacrifices, their faithfulness, and their hope for the future.



groups, women's groups; a plea for folks to come and join the choir; announcements of new members, prayer joys and concerns, and personal accomplishments; and, of course, updates about the budget and fundraising for the sanctuary.

As you go through these pages, you'll find many of these same themes. Our children and youth ministry is growing, and we need more volunteers so we can expand our ministries. There are Bible studies, men's groups, and women's groups.

Remembering the past helps us to celebrate the present. But we must also continue to hope for the future. Again and again, our congregation has embraced our original vision as a congregation of faith that worships, learns, and serves together. This happens in a variety of ways and places, as we prepare for a mission trip to Florida, as we continue to pray and

partner with the Maker Village in South Sudan, as we provide food through our Food Pantry and our Lefler partnership, as we gather each Sunday to worship, as we make our building available to the community, as we celebrate our high school graduates, and our choral scholars.

As we prepare for our 65th Anniversary Celebration, it is my prayer that the foundations we embrace in our past will continue to bear fruit in the future!

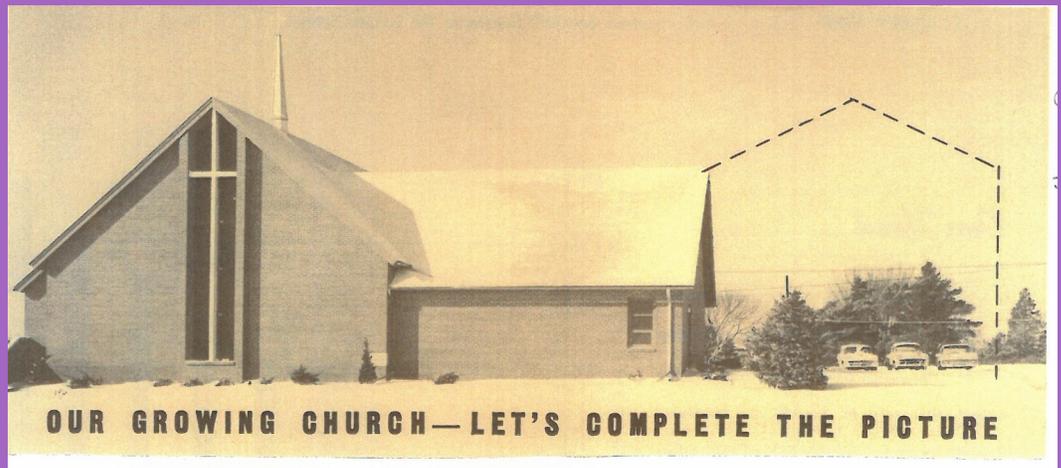
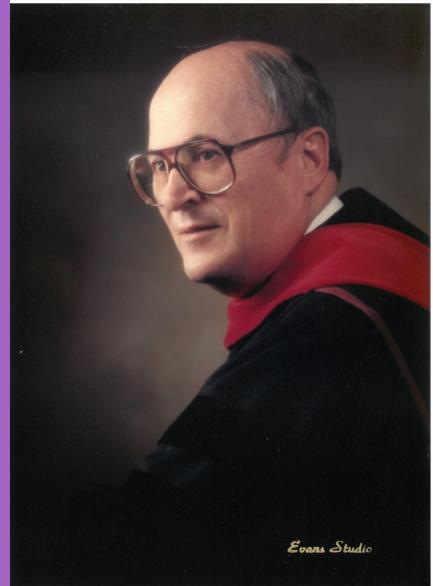
Blessings, Melodie

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From the past:





Session highlights for April 2018

Affirm that communion was served at 9:00 and 11:00 services on April 1, 2018.

Acknowledge the baptism of Hayes Hobbs, son of Mark and Whitney Hobbs at the 11:00 service on April 1, 2018.

Acknowledge the baptism of Declan Dean Hanson, son of Jennifer Smith and Mike Hanson on April 8, 2018 during the 11:00 service.

Acknowledge the baptisms by immersion of Anastacia Rankin, and Tanner Rankin on April 15, 2018 during the 11:00 service.

Acknowledge baptisms of Nyawuol Dak and

Alivia Kinnaman on April 15, 2018 during the 11:00 Service.

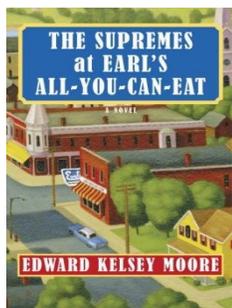
Acknowledge recognition of new members received during confirmation on April 15, 2018 at the 11:00 Service: Maya Faye Boden, Nyawuol Dak, Branden Matthew Hiller, Logan Hunt, Alivia Kinnaman, Anastacia Rankin, Tanner Rankin and Ella Wies.

It was moved, seconded and approved after discussion to enter into a shared mission partnership with the Area Agency on Aging as requested by the SERVE commission and to allow the Area Agency on Aging to use our building.

New Member Orientation! We'll have another New Member Class/Orientation coming up April 29! Even if you'd like to transfer your membership, we'd still like to get to know you better. Please join us between services on Sunday, April 29 in the Huxtable Lounge. Let the office know if you're interested in attending.



EPC Book Club: Our next book club is Monday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. Book club members, check your email for ideas for next year's selections! Title in May is *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*, by Edward Kelsey Moore.



Eastridge Ladies Night Out catches the Spring Musical at Lincoln Southeast High School, 2930 S 37th Street. Please join us Thursday, May 3 at

7:30pm for *Seussical the Musical*. Adults \$10, Seniors \$8. Please RSVP to Shirlette's Facebook invitation or to Christi at 402-805-4031 by end of day on Tuesday, May 1 to reserve your ticket.

"I Can't Believe That's in the Bible!" Have you ever read a biblical text or story and been shocked? This summer, we'd like to explore these texts. We need your help to discover them! Submit texts to office@eastridge.org, or use the form at the Welcome Center desk. Must include your name and email.

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Trailblazers: Trailblazers for May will meet on May 18 to plant flowers in the East Patio boxes.



Calling all vendors! We are seeking Eastridge members who have a business that would be interested in renting a booth space for our first ever Eastridge Presbyterian Church **Vendor and Craft Fair**. This event will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 9:00am -4:30pm.

Eastridge members will have priority over non-church members in renting a booth for their business. The cost of each booth space is \$40.00. Please contact Mickey McDaniel at 402-488-1197 or 402-730-9614 to reserve your space today! Solicitations to non-member businesses will begin on May 1st. In addition to vendors, there will be a bake sale, silent auction, and lunch available. All proceeds will support this summer's mission trip to Florida. Please plan on joining us to sell, buy, or enjoy a meal with us! Stay tuned for more information.



Bistro Theology: We are taking a break in May...no Bistro Theology this month.



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. Still More Questions: Send me an email at camp@calvincrest.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer. ~Craig Huffman, Executive Director



Meals on Wheels is in need of two volunteers to deliver one Monday a month. Meals are picked up at Tabitha at 10:30 am and we are usually finished by 12:00 noon. Please see the office or Nan Nelson.

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 MAY

- 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

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Haley Fast is the daughter of Laurie Fast. She will graduate from Lincoln East High School. During High School, Haley was a part of the Lucky Lopers 4H club, Cheer Xpress and Young Life. Haley has also participated in the life of the church through Youth Group, retreats and worship. In the fall, Haley will attend Southeast Community College.

of the church through Youth Group, mission trips, worship, session, GiFT committee and the Worship Commission. Madison will attend UNL in the fall majoring in plant biology.



Kristen Elisabeth Loudon is the daughter of Andrew and Anne Loudon. She will graduate from Lincoln East High School. During High

School, Kristen was part of the Cross Country & Track Team, Band & Choir. She was a Nebraska Heart Association Sweetheart, part of Youth Leadership Lincoln, a member of the Western Dressage Association and the Lancaster County 4H. Kristen has also participated in the life of the church through the Youth Group and worship. In the fall, Kristen will attend UNL majoring in Advertising and Public Relations.



Andrew Hiller is the son of Bruce and Shelly Hiller. He will graduate from Norris High School. During High School, Andrew played hockey for the Jr. Stars. Andrew will attend UNL this fall majoring in Architecture.

Adam Kinnaman is the son of Brad and Stephanie Kinnaman. He will graduate from Lincoln East High School.



Madison Kohel is the daughter of Brian Kohel and Gina Kohel. She will graduate from Lincoln East High School. During High School, Madison participated in marching band. Madison has participated in the life



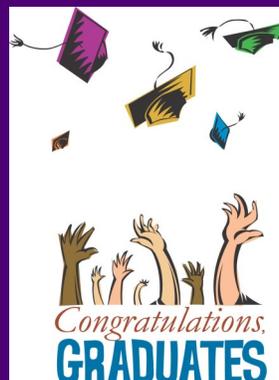
Abbi Rouse is the daughter of John and Jeni Rouse. She will graduate from Lincoln East High School. During High School, Abbi has been part of the High School Diving team and is in the National Honors Society. Abbi has also participated in the life of the church through hand bells, Youth Group, mission trips and



Lexi Rouse is the daughter of John and Jeni Rouse. She will graduate from Lincoln East High School. During High School, Lexi was a part of the Cross Country and Track Team. Lexi has also participated in the life of the church through Youth Group and worship. In the fall, Lexi will attend UNO majoring in Secondary Education.



Devin Woods is the son of Lois Woods and John Woods. He will graduate from Lincoln Southeast High School. Devin has participated in the life of the church through Youth Group, mission trips and worship. In the fall, he will attend Southeast Community College.





The Nominating Committee needs your help in finding Eastridge members to serve on our committees. This may be you, or it may be someone you know who would like to serve on a committee (please let us know if you are nominating yourself or someone else). Just fill out/tear out this portion of the newsletter and include in the offering place or office inbox. You may also contact any of these Nominating members for more information: Dave Gies, Beth Loyd, Kris Brenneis, Anne Loudon, Duane Olsen, Gary Kilian, Shirley Flynn-Bell. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

I'd like to suggest _____ for the Nominating Committee to contact. This person would fit best as/in:

- _____ Trustees
- _____ Deacon
- _____ Elder
- _____ Memorials & Endowments
- _____ Nominating Committee
- _____ Other

W O R S H I P

Learn

SERVE

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. Sign up in the church office.

Place - The Venue on 70th and Old Cheney

Cost \$25/ per person. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

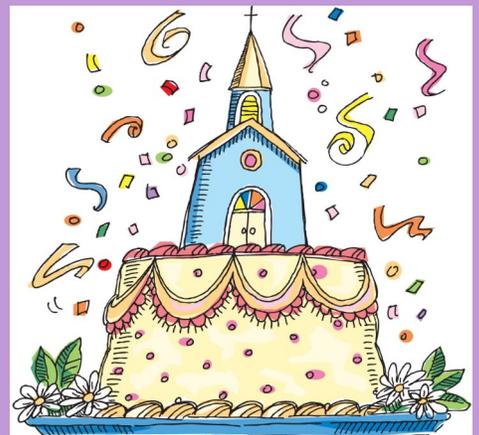
◆ Sunday, May 13, 9 & 11 am

"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.



A SEASON OF
CELEBRATION



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN:

THANK YOU to all of you who have already volunteered to help with VBS. It is approaching very quickly. While we have a great group already in place, we can use more hands. Below is a description of the leaders we still need. If you are willing/available to volunteer, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer 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.

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 Sto-

rytelling/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! Registration forms are now available. You can pick one

up at the church or it can be mailed/emailed to you. Please let us know how we can get one to you! If you have the time to volunteer or if you have additional questions, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at (dcym@eastridge.org).





OUTREACH NEWS: It is with sure and certain hope of the resurrection that we share with you the news of the passing of Javaid Gill, loving husband of Veda Gill. Many EPC members will remember Veda's visits with us and her messages about her work with Presbyterian missions in Pakistan, as Executive Director of the Presbyterian Education Board. Her stories of faith and family are truly transformational, including her work educating Pakistani girls, and her husband was a strong supporter of her as a female leader in her country.

Pastors Melodie and Thomas are sending word of condolence on behalf of the congregation. At Veda's request, memorial donations received will go to the Javaid Gill Memorial Fund will go toward the completion of the Pasrur Boys' School building project. A classroom at the school will be named in his honor.

If you would like to contribute to this memorial, please write your check to Eastridge Presbyterian Church, with notation that it is for the Javaid Gill Memorial Fund. Please do this before May 12, after which we will forward the gifts to this fund.



Baby Shower! Youth Group Volunteers Andy and Jenna Hunt were surprised with a baby shower sponsored by the Youth, in our new Huxtable Lounge!





Dinner for Six groups:

We'd like to start some Dinner for Six groups here at Eastridge! It's a great way to meet folks from church that you may not

already know. It's also a good way to get to know your church family better. Groups plan their own meals and get together once a month for four consecutive months. You share meals at participants' homes, at local restaurants, the church or wherever the group decides. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so you don't have to be a gourmet cook to participate. How does a Dinner for Six Group work? Simply fill out the online registration form or fill out a form at the church and return it to the inbox outside the church office. More info to come once you've signed up!

Eastridge welcomed these new members through confirmation in April: Maya Faye Boden, Nyawuol Dak, Branden Matthew Hiller, Logan Hunt, Alivia Kinnaman, Anastacia (Ana) Rankin, Tanner Rankin, and Ella Wies. Thanks also to their confirmation mentors for guiding them through the year.



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) 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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: SERMON IN A SACK

This summer, we are going to have a little fun with the children's sermon right along with our "I Can't Believe That's in the Bible!" sermon series. Each Sunday, a child will be invited to bring an item from home in a paper bag. They will bring that item up for the children's sermon. After revealing the item from the bag, I will share a children's sermon on how that item relates to a passage of scripture. If your child(ren) would like to bring an item, please let me (Kris) know so we can arrange a certain Sunday for them to bring their item.



Eastridge received a \$500 grant from SHOPKO, accepted here by Dave Wasung (center). The grant was for the **Lefler Middle School "Food Market"** program for the 2018-19 school year. Shopko donated to the project last year and continue to support our partnership with Lefler and the Food Bank of Lincoln for the coming year. Many thanks to SHOPKO's generosity in supporting the community through the Lefler Food Market program.

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