



Patience in a Pastor Search

From the desk of Pastor Paul Cummings

This month's article is a little different. It began with me personally thinking, praying, and working through the topic of our senior pastor search. So, this will be seasoned with a very personal flavor. I ask that you indulge me in this pursuit as I try to share my findings.



When are we going to find our next senior pastor? Why hasn't it happened yet Lord? Can't this go faster? Why isn't there as much progress as I'd like? If God would just give us a senior pastor now, that would fix everything (or so I think in my little world where I think I know best).

Thoughts such as these swarmed my mind as I sat next to my son's bed tucking him in for the night. I'm sure you've had questions like these. We absolutely desire to have a new senior pastor and often it's easy for us to say we want it to happen in the Lord's timing. It is His church, after all. But if we are honest, it's easy to drift towards a mindset that expects instantcy. We live in a world that breathes "instant." We probably don't intend to get sucked into the instant craze, but it happens. Sadly, I believe it flows over into our Christian walks and church life. We can easily pick up the attitude of, "what is the least I can do to be godly and how can I get there as fast as possible?" We seek "instant holiness" (*not sold at stores near you*). But wisdom teaches that godliness, our Christian walks, and church life move slowly.

What does this require of us? **Patience.** This crucial little word means to have a sense of peace while waiting for an outcome. It can also carry the idea of holding one's spirit in check or restraining your temper. Picture the idea of a long fuse.

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Now, when you consider what Scripture says about patience, it becomes evident that it is not natural for us. We need God Himself to give us this precious fruit. In fact, it is listed as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. Additionally, Paul prays in Colossians 1:11 that the saints would be "**strengthened with all power...for all endurance and patience.**" Even more so, Paul says in Colossians 3:12 that we need to "**Put on then, as God's chosen**

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Family News: *New Babies!*



A Little Girl Has Entered the World!

Pastor Samuel and Shannon Blakey ended 2022 by welcoming their newest addition—another daughter! On December 29, 2022, Piper Renée Blakey made her debut at 8:36 am. Seven pounds and 14 ounces of sweetness was born that morning, and the Blakeys praised God for another healthy delivery. Big sister Jane cares deeply about helping her baby sister, while big brother Wesley covers her in kisses. Please join in praising God and praying He helps strengthen the Blakeys as they navigate being a family of five! ♥



Ladies, please join together at Eastridge on **Saturday, February 11** from 2:00-4:00pm for a sip'n'see-style shower to encourage Shannon and meet baby Piper! Light refreshments will be served. In lieu of baby items, the Blakeys would appreciate grocery and food gift cards!

Sign-up at the church Welcome Table, or RSVP on Realm (Events). For more information, contact Jennifer Swenson: (425) 358-0111 ♥ swen4son@comcast.net



A New Little Sweetheart is Born!

Johnathan and Michaela Rutherford just welcomed their second daughter, Hazel Joy Rutherford! At 8 pounds and 4 ounces, Hazel was born at 12:18pm on January 18, 2023—exactly one week past her due date! Proud big sister, Grace, loves to give Hazel her paci and make shushing noises, which calms her baby sister down when she's crying. The Rutherfords are doing well and are praising God for another healthy baby girl. Please be praying for them as they adjust to being a family of four!

Congrats also to Grandparents Matthew and Cindy Rutherford, and Great-Grandma Bette Rutherford! ♥



Patience in a Pastor Search

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ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

What does this show us? It implies that it is not natural for sinful man to be patient, wait patiently, or bear with someone or something that does not instantly give him what he desires. It takes God, by His Spirit, to produce this in us. Yet, we are commanded to put it into action.

Patience is based on God’s own character and dealings with us. God has shown amazing long-suffering with you and me. Second Peter 3:9 states, **“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”** He has also worked out His eternal plans patiently from the fall of man in Genesis 3 to this day. He did not sacrifice the Lamb of God instantly after the Fall. Instead, years upon years passed until the **“fullness of time”** (Gal. 4:4-5). Even at this moment, we await the return of our King Jesus. God Himself is the basis of our patience, and we are commanded to be like Him. I would encourage you to read James 5:7-11 for a helpful text to meditate on.

Okay, let’s apply this biblical truth to the topic of the senior pastor search. Honestly, I want things to go fast and would have loved to have a senior pastor by now. Frustration and exhaustion can easily kick in when **MY** expectations are not fulfilled. Can’t we all be like that, though? Things don’t go our way and we get upset because we think we know what’s best. That anger and frustration ultimately reveals an idol in our hearts, that we are worshipping something over God. Often this idol is self. We want to feel good, look good, or be told how good we are. And when that doesn’t happen, sin shows its ugly face.

For me, I have discovered the sneakiness of sin leading me to put my hope and faith in a man.



“If we just had our senior pastor by now, then (Fill in the blank).” *Things would go better? Life would be easier? Maybe.* But my hope is misplaced. My faith has shifted to a man, which is idolatry. Instead, our hope and faith are to be in Christ alone. He is the Head of the church, the Lord of our lives. He knows what is best for us. No matter who fills this role and what time he arrives, we are to be faithful to our Lord. Only Christ is the perfect Shepherd for the church, so we should walk by faith in Him. He will put the right senior pastor here at the exact time He chooses. What’s our responsibility? To walk faithfully to Christ, to be patient, and to press on in the work of the ministry. We do not need to wait for a senior pastor to glorify our Lord.

It is often good for us to do a heart-check. What begins as a good and right pursuit can easily drift into idolatry. I can testify to that. But the Lord is so gracious towards us to correct us and gives us what we need to press on. So, as we continue to wait and search diligently for a new senior pastor, let us do so with patience, keeping our hope and faith fixed on Christ our Lord. He will provide exactly what we need. ♥

Freedom from Guilt: Finding Release from Your Burdens

by Timothy S. Lane

A book review by Danielle Jensen

Guilt is a real experience for all of us. However, believers have the amazing privilege of being able to live free from guilt. Not because we do not sin after our salvation (the longer I am a Christian, the more I am aware of the depths of my sinful heart). Not because we can sin and tell ourselves that there is grace for that, so no big deal (we are called to put our sin to death [Romans 6:1; 8:12]).

We can live free from guilt because Christ has made it possible for our sin to be fully and finally forgiven. When we confess and repent of our sin, we can be confident that “we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense,” and “that we are cleansed from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

However, for a variety of reasons, this can be a difficult truth to practically apply to our lives. Many believers live unnecessarily laden with guilt and shame. Timothy Lane gives believers a framework to work through their personal struggles with guilt in his book *Freedom from Guilt*.

Lane discusses four wrong ways believers deal with guilt. They include, *denying* that you are guilty, *trying* to be a better person, *comparing* yourself to others, and *becoming obsessed* with your guilt. I know I have tried a few of these. All of these strategies may relieve us of guilt for a time, but they won't take it away.

The only strategy that works is to apply the gospel truths of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. It is commonly understood that the gospel is needed for salvation from sin's control of our hearts (Romans 6:6), but we also need the gospel for our daily battle with sin (1 Peter 1:2-4). Understanding the gospel, God's love for us demonstrated in forgiveness, guards us against two misuses of Christ's sacrifice. The first is taking God's grace for granted and continuing to sin that



grace may abound (Romans 6:1). Understanding the high price of our sin, Christ's death, inspires us to put our sin to death. The second is ignoring God's grace and living as if there is no remedy for our sin, burdened by guilt. Understanding the high price Christ paid helps us to understand that God wants us to be forgiven, therefore, we should seek his forgiveness quickly and freely (Romans 8:32; Hebrews 4:16).

Knowing how exactly to do this is difficult. So, Lane offers five practical strategies for implementing change in this area of your life that you can learn about by picking up Timothy Lane's book at the counseling resource table in our church lobby. Another resource there that may be helpful for this area is Andrew Naselli and J.D. Crowley's book *Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It, and How to Love those Who Differ*. Also, please feel free to reach out to an Eastridge biblical counselor for help in this area of guilt. ♥

Myanmar Bags of Hope 2022

Update by Ken Lilly

Thanks to your prayers and generous donations, the Bags of Hope outreach in Myanmar keeps getting bigger and bigger! This past Christmas season 2,069 bags for the children were distributed, each with toiletries, flip-flops, gifts, and a gospel tract written in Burmese. In addition, 1,963 eighteen-pound bags of rice were given to the families of several of the many slum areas in Yangon, and 100 emergency bags of food were handed out to families whose homes have been destroyed by the ongoing civil war.



Above and beyond the usual Christmas day outreach, Daniel, a local pastor ministering to the slums, was able to rent a hall for a New Year's Day service where over 300 people were fed a meal and the wonderful gospel message. **Five people (shown below) responded to the message and have decided to follow Jesus!**



Thanks again, and please pray for Pastor Daniel and other local leaders as they continue to minister to the slum areas, that God would continue to change hearts as they share the good news!

“In His name the nations will put their hope.” Matthew 12:21 ♥

Remembering Jack and Mavis Gaines

by *Daná Freeland*

In the December 2021 Eastridge Communicator, we briefly highlighted Jack and Mavis Gaines who had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary a few months earlier. When asked what the secret was to such a long marriage, Jack quipped, “Living a long time.” While there is definitely truth in that statement, all of us know that it takes a lot more than time to reach such a milestone.

In this month’s Communicator, we will pay tribute to this lovely couple. I had the privilege to interview them in Autumn 2021. Sadly, they are no longer with us. The two of them parted from us last year – Jack passed away in March 2022 and Mavis followed him in August 2022.

Jack was born and raised in Iowa; he was the younger of two children. He later served in the Air Force for five years, seeing duty stations in Texas, Idaho, and Montana.

Mavis was born in Texas and was the oldest of four children. Later, her family moved to Colorado where she finished high school. In 1948, she left Colorado to attend nursing school at Baylor University in Texas.

When Jack was stationed in the Waco area, he and several other cadets heard about a local dance and went to the nursing school to ask the resident mother if they could escort some of the young ladies to the dance.

Mavis and a few of the other nursing students consented. At the dance, Jack quickly spotted Mavis, who he said stood out as a “slick chick.” Mavis said she soon discovered that Jack, in addition to being mature and handsome, had a beautiful bass singing voice. Not long after, these sweethearts married on July 7, 1951.

After Jack’s discharge from the military in 1953, the couple moved to Iowa where Jack attended Iowa State University. They said that these were among the hardest years of their marriage, as work, studies, and young children consumed all their time. They didn’t get to spend much time together during these years, and they said that it was “their faith that got them through.”

Jack graduated from college in 1957, and they moved to the Seattle area, where Jack went to work as an engineer at Boeing, and Mavis worked part-time at Valley General Hospital as a pediatric nurse. By 1968, they had added six children to their family—3 boys and 3 girls. One of their sons died of cancer in 2012. Their oldest son lives in Tennessee and their other four children live in the greater Seattle-Tacoma area.

Over the years, Jack and Mavis were a part of four local Baptist churches – they were charter members of two: Trinity Baptist Church in Renton (where they attended for about 15 years) and Eastridge Baptist Church in Kent (where they were members for 40 years). Jack served on the deacon and elder boards, taught Bible studies and Sunday School, and sang in the choir. Mavis taught women’s Bible studies and Sunday School, served as a nursery worker, and provided food and hospitality at numerous events. Their youngest child fondly remembers attending the first youth group at Eastridge, which was hosted in their family’s basement.

What was the most instrumental teaching they received in the Christian faith? They both recalled in their earlier years of marriage that a church pianist had shared tapes on basic Biblical doctrines with them. They cited that as having led them to have a deeper interest in the Bible.

After the couple retired, they became snowbirds, spending about half the year in the Tucson area. As you can probably guess, they were active in a chapel near their winter home. They did that for 20+ years, before opting to limit their travels and remain in Washington state year-round.

Jack and Mavis Gaines

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Jack and Mavis mentioned that their fondest wedding anniversary celebration was when they celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at Eastridge Baptist Church in 2001. During the event, they repeated their vows to each other.

Jack and Mavis' family has grown over the years. Between their 6 children, they have 21 grandchildren and 21 (and counting) great-grandchildren. Their greatest desire was to see their descendants know and follow the Lord.

Their eldest son says that they demonstrated an unwavering commitment to one another and to their family, always in the context of

their shared faith-commitment to the Lord. He recalls that some of his early memories are of being brought to church and of huddling on the couch at home with sisters while mom or dad read stories from a colorfully illustrated series of books spanning the whole Bible. In later years, when he visited them, every breakfast in those more relaxed days concluded with a devotional and a prayer during which each child and grandchild was brought before the Lord by name.

Their youngest son says that he is very thankful for his parents, for their grounding in the Scriptures and their faith, and for being raised in such a loving, God-centered family. He appreciates that “their love and guidance provided me with the best example of marriage any young man could ask for.” As leaders in the church, he notes that they went to every service and often had Bible studies and social gatherings at their home several times a week. His comments on the legacy they left behind – “servants of the Lord [who] were an example to us all.”

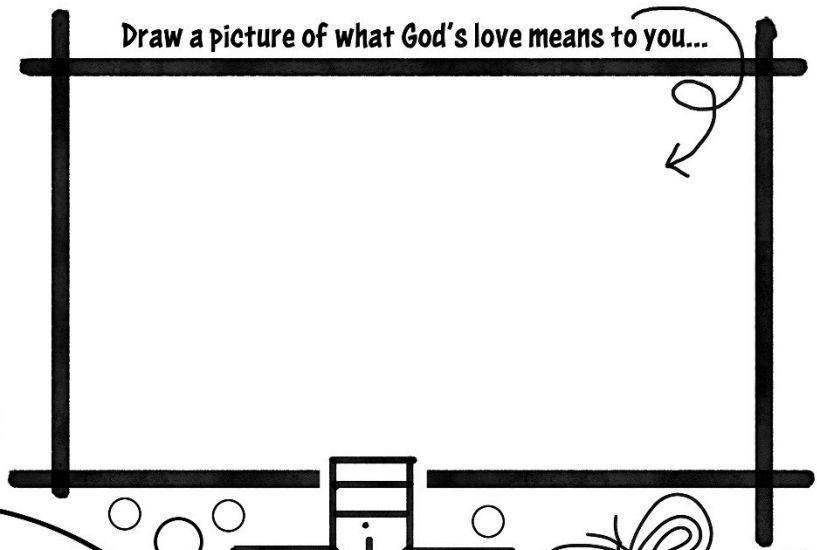
What their friends say about them:

- ♥ Both of them had a passion for God's Word.
- ♥ When they had concerns, they didn't let it get them down; they took them to the Lord, and then faced the problem or circumstance together.
- ♥ They were a wonderful example of a strong marriage.
- ♥ We were blessed to have them in our lives.

When I asked Jack what advice he had for a successful marriage, he said, “Make a commitment and stick to it.” Mavis added, “Learn little things as you go along and adjust.” Indeed, this couple served as an example to our church body of true love, forgiveness, grace, and commitment. Quite simply: they loved Jesus, and it showed.

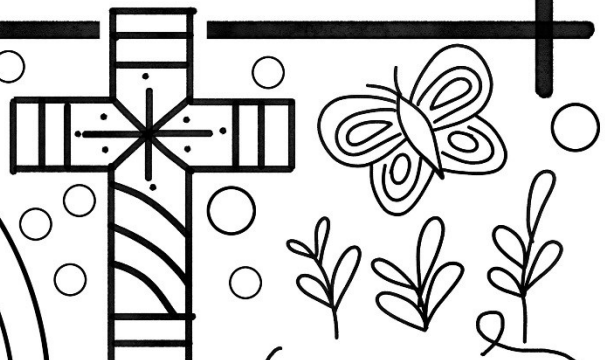
Perhaps you desire to strengthen your marriage in 2023. A great place to start might be the Weekend to Remember marriage retreat coming to Bellevue in March. *More details on page 9.* ♥

ALL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE



What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...

JESUS LOVES ME



God's love is...

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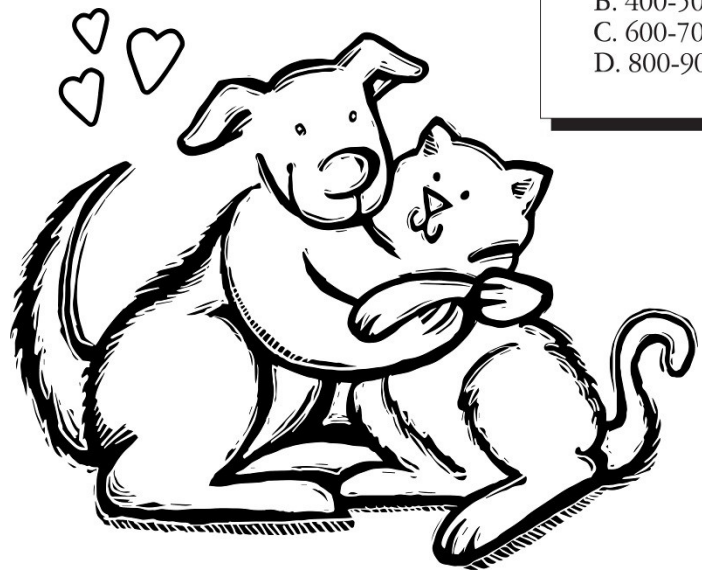
Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900

Love

Answer: C



Bible Quiz

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)

Treat Your Valentine to a Weekend to Remember!

Invitation by Cathy Mickelson

Good marriages don't just happen. Treat your valentine to the Weekend to Remember marriage retreat coming to Bellevue March 17-19. Plan a special getaway for just the two of you and learn biblical relationship principles and how to apply them to your most important relationship. Areas of communication, conflict resolution, and intimacy will be addressed by qualified Bible teachers. A limited number of free gift cards are available.



For questions, contact Bill or Cathy Mickelson at:
mickelson5@msn.com (Bill) OR camickelson@msn.com (Cathy)

To register online, visit:
familylife.com/weekend-to-remember



Birthdays

Natalie Reeves 2/1
Gayle Franklin 2/2
Avery Bonn 2/5
Pat Haylor 2/6
Megan Cummings 2/6
Kaitlin Hammett 2/7
Jann Hughes 2/9
Michelle Graves 2/15
Esther Everett 2/15
Tim Fulton 2/18
Trinity Reed 2/18
Jorge Ramos 2/18
Anna Williams 2/19
Mary Tiginyanu 2/19
Wesley Blakey 2/20
Cora Hurst 2/21

Caleb Mickelson 2/23
Susan Rehberg 2/23
Shannon Guevara 2/23
Ken Koenig 2/24
Kim Turnbull 2/25
Ethan Keating 2/25
Loye Reas 2/27

Anniversaries

Ryan & Natalie Reeves
2/2
Mike & Diane Carlton
2/3
Curtis & Jean Foster
2/18
Kent & Jolyn Barber
2/21
Jordan & Amanda Olson
2/29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	2 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	3 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study	4 9:00am-12:00pm 2023 Women's Ministry Kick-Off Event
			5 6:00pm Prayer Meeting Anchored: Post-Prayer Meeting Fellowship (@ Blakeys')	6 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	7 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30pm Elder Meeting	8 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group
12	13 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	14 ♥ 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	15 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	16 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	17 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study	18
19	20 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	21 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	22 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	23 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study	25
Youth Winter Camp @ Double K Retreat						
26 Communion	27 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	28 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo				

Youth Winter Camp 2023!

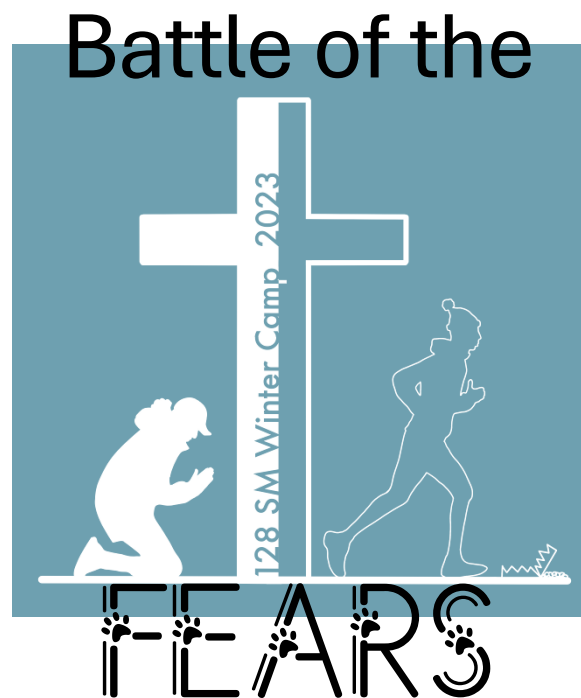
The Youth Group is invited to join this year's Winter Camp adventures February 19-21 at Double K Retreat & Adventure Center in Easton, WA! This will be an overnight bonding event full of Bible study, worship, fellowship, fun and *hopefully* lots of snow!

Cost: \$190 per student

\$30 deposit due upon registration

Full amount due before departing for camp

Payments can be made in person to Pastor Paul or Online via Realm (Giving)



Registration Deadline: Sunday, February 12

Looking Ahead at Eastridge

March 2023

Sunday, March 5	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
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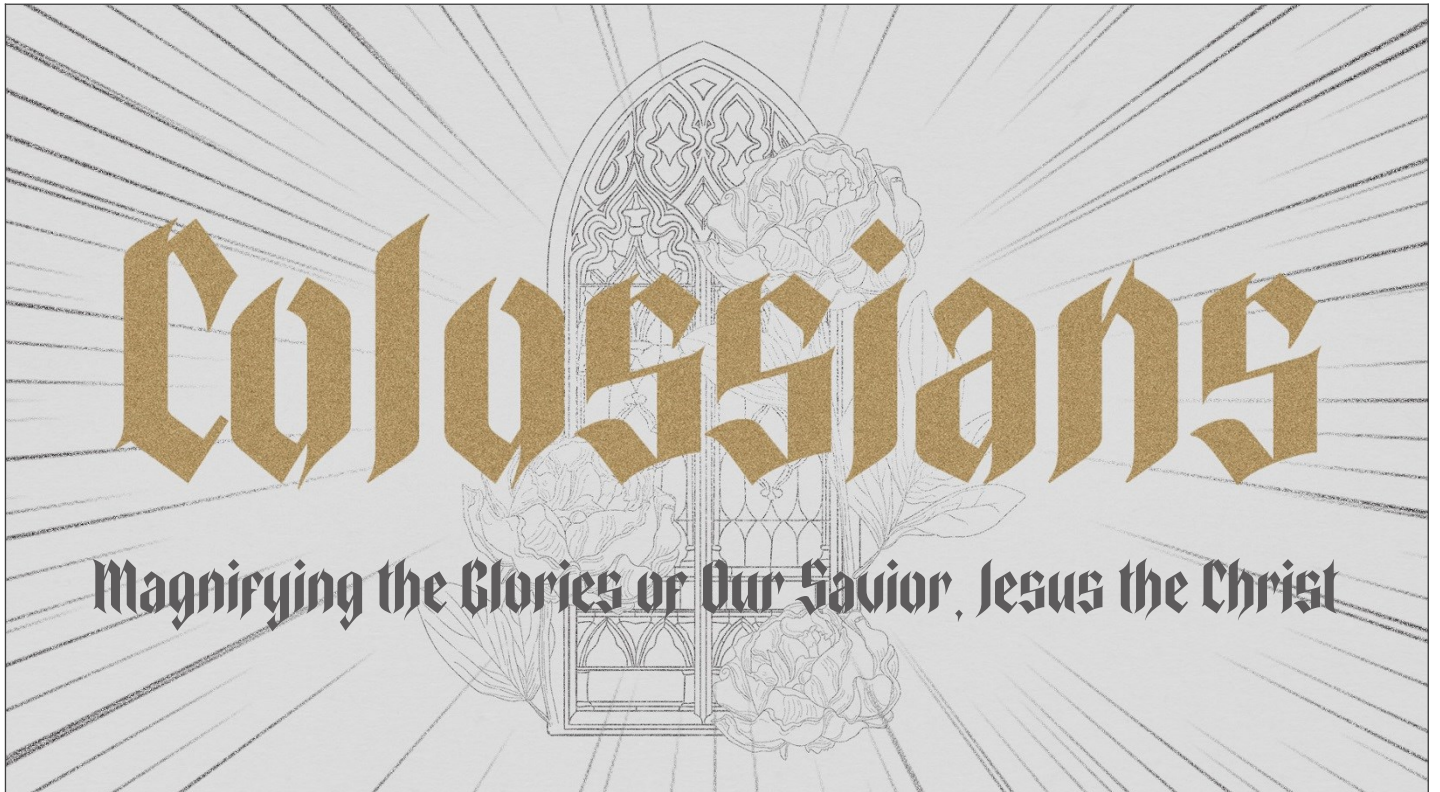
April 2023

Saturday, April 1	Spring Church Workday #1	9:00am (Church Grounds)
Sunday, April 2	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday Services	8:30am & 10:30am <i>(no Sunday School)</i>
Friday, April 28	Women's Event— <i>Who is Your God?</i> <i>Salty Snacks & Sweet Conversation</i>	7:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, April 29	Spring Church Workday #2	9:00am (Church Grounds)

May 2023

Sunday, May 7	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, May 20	Spring Church Workday #3	9:00am (Church Grounds)

Current Sermon Series:



Miss a week? Catch up by viewing past sermon audio/video:

eastridgebaptist.org/sermon-audio ♥ [youtube.com/c/EastridgeBaptistChurchKent](https://www.youtube.com/c/EastridgeBaptistChurchKent)



EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH