



# EASTRIDGE Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Eastridge Baptist Church

## Reading Comprehension

*from the desk of Pastor John*

We are starting another new year and we all hope this year will be better than last year. We hope for peace in our world, our country, our state, and our homes. The beginning of a new year just seems like the natural time to look ahead and hope for something better. The new year is also the time when many people make new commitments. We make that commitment to get in better shape. We decide that this is the year we are finally going to start that exercise routine, lose a few pounds, and tone the areas that have been neglected for far too long.

We often have very good intentions and start out strong. We wake up early and start the new plan. We may even be faithful to a routine for a few months until something interrupts the plan, be it an illness, demands of our job, a family emergency, or just exhaustion.

And, sadly, our best intentions are put back on the shelf labeled “someday,” right next to the goals to learn to speak Spanish and to start tithing regularly.

This will come as no surprise; more gym memberships are purchased in January than any other time of the year. Statistically speaking, ninety percent of the people who signed up for a new membership in January stop using it by April. The same

“How many people have vowed to read their Bible through in a particular year (requiring them to read three chapters per day), only to abandon the reading plan in April?”

thing is true for those who buy new exercise equipment in December. By summer, it has a layer of dust and a box of stuff we can’t find a place for sitting on it.

Commitments that require a change in the way we think (like dieting), or a change in routine (like exercising) are some of the most difficult to keep.

Sadly, the difficulty in keeping our commitments holds true when it comes to spiritual commitments as

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well. How many people have vowed to read their Bible through in a year (requiring them to read three chapters per day), only to abandon the reading plan in April? It happens to about ninety percent of the people who make that commitment. They miss two or three days and find themselves several chapters behind. Suddenly, reading the Bible feels more like a debt they are struggling to pay off than an opportunity to know God better. Before long, giving up on the commitment seems easier than trying to catch up.

While I think it is a good idea to read your Bible through every year, it is a better idea to read your Bible without getting frustrated and giving up. Better to read one

# Reading Comprehension

*Continued from page 1*

chapter a day and comprehend the truth of God's Word than to read three chapters per day just to stay on track with a schedule. When it comes to the Bible, it is more important to understand what you read than it is to read it within a certain time frame.

Here are five ways to read your Bible for comprehension. You can apply these whether you read one chapter per day, or ten.

- Summarize each chapter in a sentence or two. Write the sentence down so you can look back on it later and know the basic idea of that chapter.
- Pick one thought from your reading that you want to think about (meditate on) throughout the day.
- Since all Scripture is profitable for correction or instruction, answer the question, "Why did God include this chapter (these chapters) in the Bible?"
- Write down at least one question you have about what you have read.
- Identify one or more of these five areas using the acronym SPECK:
  - ◇ **S**in to confess
  - ◇ **P**romise to cling to
  - ◇ **E**xample to follow
  - ◇ **C**ommand to obey
  - ◇ **K**nowledge of God

There are other ways to get involved in reading the Bible that may be just as helpful. However, the important thing is that you read to understand. The goal is not to read the Bible in a certain amount of time—the goal is to understand the Bible better. The more you love to learn about

God, the less reading your Bible will feel like a chore to be completed. So, rather than adhering to a read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plan, resolve to focus on learning something from the Bible each time you read it.

## Just for Laughs



## Built Together

from the desk of Pastor Paul

It is that time of year again where we typically evaluate how our relationship with the Bible has been. We ponder how we should nurture it in the new year. It is something worthy of consideration. Christians are dependent upon the Word of God. We feed on it like daily food for our soul. Yet, there is another area of our Christian lives we ought to consider a priority: our connection to the local church. Often, we consider the value and responsibilities of our personal relationship with Christ but forget that our salvation unites us with one another as one body (Rom. 12:5).

Consider what Paul says about this togetherness. In Ephesians 2:11-22, we read of God's merciful work to take two hostile groups (Jews and Gentiles) and bring them together as "one new man" consisting of those who trust in Jesus. He points out that though the Gentiles were far away, they have been brought near. Everyone must go through Jesus to be saved, to be reconciled to God. This reminds us that we are all at the same level at the foot of the cross. No one is better than the other. Everyone needs the blood of Jesus to wash away their sins. We all are desperate for God's saving grace.

By the work of the Triune God, we who trust in Jesus each **"have access in one Spirit to the Father"** and are **"fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...joined together...into a holy temple in the Lord...built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit"** (Ephesians 2:18-22; see also 1 Peter 2:4-5). In Ephesians 3:11-13, the Apostle Paul reflects on this union with others seen in Ephesians 2:11-22.

He calls it the mystery that now has been revealed for us to know. The manifold wisdom of God is displayed through the church (Eph. 3:10). God did something that no human could do. He reconciled two irreconcilable peoples—Jew and Gentile.

The church should be important to us because it is the work of God in bringing together His people in this age as one new family. All this is so that He would be glorified as we worship Him and live in unity together, seeking to make disciples who do the same. God forms this special community who



is indwelt by His Spirit. Don't forget that the Holy Spirit not only abides in you but also dwells in your fellow Christian sitting across the room on a Sunday morning.

This new union together drastically impacts how we relate to one another, and it is to be a testimony to the world of God's work. Knowing of God's household building sets our perspective straight. As we interact with one another, we remember that we are part of the same family of God. This affects our approach to conversations and conflicts. In our disagreements, we need

to remember that we are not to treat each other as enemies, but instead as family. Our involvement with each other is to be marked by love. On top of that, our spiritual family helps us live for Christ. Because we are united as one body in Christ, we know that we do not face the Christian walk alone. We have each other to help in our times of need, whether we're going through the valley or being challenged to reconsider our ways when we are off track (Prov. 27:17; Rom. 12:15; Heb. 3:13).

So how can we let this influence our new year ahead? We should not only consider our personal walks with Jesus as a priority, but also our walks

## Built Together (continued from pg. 3)

with Christ **TOGETHER**. How did you do with this last year? Christ loves His church and gave His life for her (Eph. 5:25). Let's be like Christ and love the church, too (we are a part of it). Make church a priority. Let your children see that church is a priority in your life so that they learn to love the church. Be involved in the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12) and serve (Gal. 5:13). God does not intend for us to have the attitude of what's the least I can do. Speak well of one another (Eph. 4:29-32; James 4:11). Get

to know others who you haven't spoken to very much. Sure, it takes effort to build relationships, but we were never meant to be "lone ranger" Christians. You could even set a yearly goal to practice the "one anothers" that are found throughout the New Testament letters.

Every believer is to be "**eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**" within the church (Eph. 4:3). May our commitment to Christ and His Word drive us to be committed to each other. There is a great blessing when Christians dwell together in unity.

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## Service Opportunities



We're looking for a few people to serve in the Kitchen Ministry. This involves:

- Cooking for various church lunches, church workdays, and special events
- Helping with memorial services, and similar types of events a few times per year.

Training will be provided on how to use the ovens, grill, dishwasher, etc. in the church kitchen, and how to cook for larger groups. The goal is to build a team of people who can share the work of helping out with various events at the church.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Jeannie or Mike Osterman at [jean\\_osterman@yahoo.com](mailto:jean_osterman@yahoo.com).



After a break from having ushers at the services due to Covid, we will be getting this ministry up and running again in the new year (likely starting in February). In order to successfully run this ministry we need the following volunteers:

**Head Usher.** The head usher is responsible for creating an usher schedule, training new ushers, ensuring attendance numbers are tracked, and fulfilling the duties of an usher.

**Ushers.** Ushers are responsible for greeting congregants as they enter the auditorium, handing out bulletins and welcome brochures, and helping people find seats when the sanctuary seats begin to fill.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions, please contact Pastor Samuel at [samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org](mailto:samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org) by January 15, 2021.

# Women's Ministry 2022 Kickoff Event

## Morning of Praise, Prayer, & Preparation

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
9 am – 12 pm

Join us for our  
Women's Ministry  
2022 Vision Kickoff

Light Breakfast and Childcare Provided

"Blessed is the man who *trusts* in the LORD,  
whose *trust* is the LORD. He is like a tree *planted*  
by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and  
*does not fear* when heat comes, for its leaves  
remain green, and *is not anxious* in the year  
of drought, for it does not cease to *bear fruit*."  
-Jeremiah 17:7-8



## January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Lydia Kusack 1/1  
Logan Pogue 1/3  
Asher Elliott 1/4  
Lynnette Morales 1/5  
Leah Ramos 1/5  
Quinn Sundvall 1/6  
Elliot Hansen 1/6  
Alanna Lopez 1/7  
Randy Mayes 1/7  
Kristina Cederwall 1/8  
Lisa Horne 1/9

Samuel Watson 1/11  
Carl Moore 1/12  
Michael Gailey 1/14  
Brian Reas 1/14  
Molly Small 1/15  
Aiden Carlton 1/16  
Mike McCafferty 1/17  
Barbara Bonar 1/18  
Maria Kerr 1/18  
Kris Adams 1/20  
Paul Mickelson 1/21

Jon Watson 1/22  
Emily Oldenburger 1/27  
Veronica Aitkins 1/28  
Benjamin McArdel 1/29

### Anniversaries

Andrew and Sara Hayward  
1/9  
Jim and Alice Hunter 1/9  
Curtis and Anna Blake 1/12  
Johnathan and Michaela  
Rutherford 1/16  
Bill and Cheryl Boston 1/26  
Ken and Annette Koenig  
1/27

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> 
<p>2</p> <p><b>6:00pm Prayer Meeting</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am—12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>9:00am—12:00pm Ladies' 2022 Vision Kick-off Event @ EBC</b></p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p><b>Communion</b></p>	<p>31</p> <p>2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's</p>					

## February 2022

Tuesday, February 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
*Sunday, February 13	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, February 20– Tuesday, February 22	Youth Winter Camp	@ TBD
Monday, February 21– Friday, February 25	Kent School District Winter Break	

\*Note date change from the first Sunday of the month

## March 2022

Sunday, March 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's

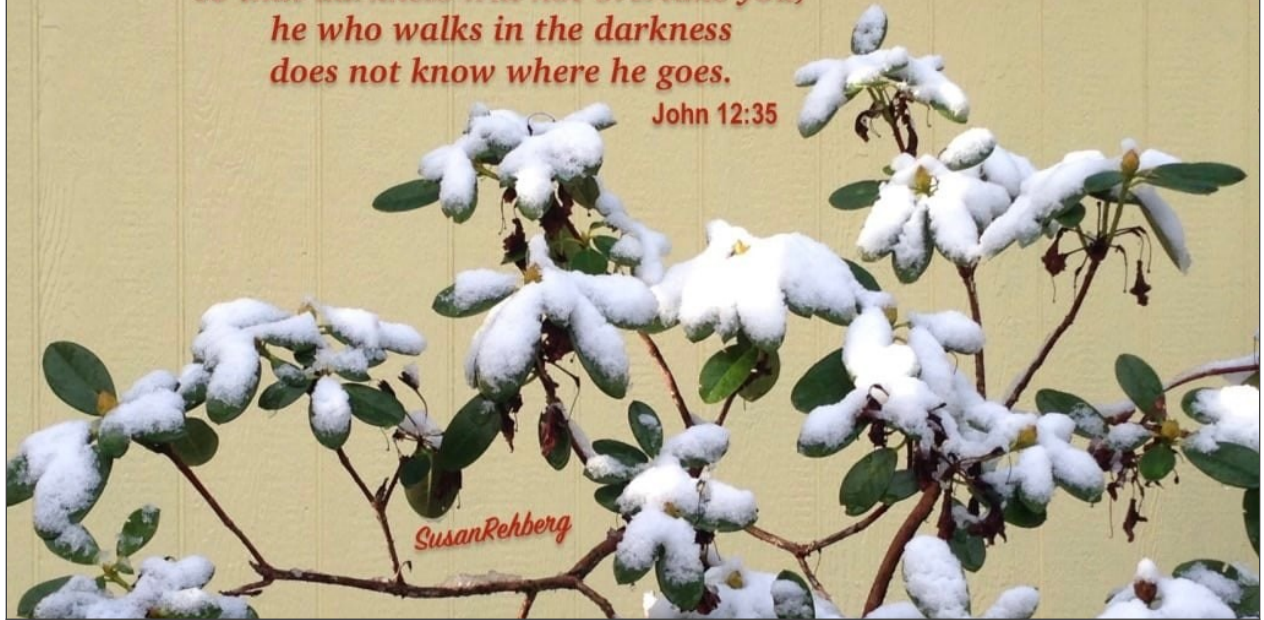
## April 2022

Friday, April 1	Women's Charcuterie and Chit Chat	7:00pm @ EBC
Sunday, April 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, April 9	Church Workday	9:00am–2:00pm
Tuesday, April 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, April 15	Good Friday Service	6:30pm @ EBC
Sunday, April 17	Easter Sunday	Services @ 8:30 & 10:30 No Sunday School
Saturday, April 30	Church Workday	9:00am–2:00pm



*So Jesus said, "For a little while longer  
the Light is among you.  
Walk while you have the Light,  
so that darkness will not overtake you;  
he who walks in the darkness  
does not know where he goes.*

*John 12:35*



**EASTRIDGE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH