



EASTRIDGE Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Eastridge Baptist Church

The Weapons of our Warfare, Part 2

from the desk of Pastor John

Over the course of American history, many people have referred to the U.S. Constitution as a “living breathing document,” meaning that they believe the Constitution is able to be edited and adapted to current society. While there are provisos for adopting amendments to the Constitution, the debate rages on as to whether or not the founding fathers intended it to be a living, editable document. The original authors of the Constitution cannot tell us what they ultimately intended because they have all been dead for over one hundred years.

However, when the Bible states that the Word of God is living, it does not mean that it is editable or changeable. We do not debate whether a passage is relevant for today and then choose to add amendments to the Bible.

When we speak about the living Word of God, we are speaking about the fact that God, the ultimate author of the Bible, is alive and using His Word to accomplish His purposes today. It is alive because it is divine and unlike anything that has every originated in the minds of mere men.

The author of Hebrews exalts the Word of God and its power to change lives when he says in

Hebrews 4:12-13,

“When we speak about the living Word of God, we are speaking about the fact that God, the ultimate author of the Bible, is alive and using His Word to accomplish His purposes today.”

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both

joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

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These verses list seven distinct marks of God’s Word that give us confidence that it is the most effective weapon in the battle for truth and for the souls of men and women.

Last month we looked at the fact that the Bible is a divine book. It is divine in origin, divine in its message, and divine in its authority. That is a necessary starting point. If we reject the divine nature of the Bible, then any other characteristic we apply to it is automatically open to debate. So, we unapologetically (yet not without reason) begin with the affirmation of the divine nature of the Word of God.

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Weapons of Warfare

Continued from page 1

The writer of Hebrews declares the Bible to be *the Living Word*. As mentioned above, that means that it is being used today, as it has been throughout its history, to effect change. It has been used to bring people under conviction, to provide comfort, to produce change, and to promote conformity to the image of Christ. The Word of God has proven its living character in every era, in every culture, and in every language since it was written.

This is no dead book—it is alive! The word translated **living** is in the emphatic position in the original text. This is God’s way of drawing attention to and adding emphasis to the word **living**.

In Stephen’s sermon in **Acts 7:38**, he said that Moses received “living oracles” from God. That is to say that the words Moses received were true, meaningful, enduring, and useful for changing lives. **1 Peter 1:23** says, “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperish-

able, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

All other books are dead manuscripts, but this book is alive. Martin Luther stated, “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.” The Bible is alive, and it is after us. As Steve Lawson said, “I have read other books, but this is the first book that ever read me.” We don’t need to bring life into the Scripture—the Scripture brings life to us. It is living, it is fresh, it is as relevant today as it was in the time of Christ. If you want to be contemporary, read the Bible. If you want to be on the cutting edge, study the Bible. If you want to be avant-garde, be conformed by the Scriptures. The Bible is more relevant to your life today than the next election. The **word of God is living**; therefore, when the Bible speaks, God is speaking. Do you want to hear from God today? Read the Bible!

The Bible is the *Divine Word*, and it is the *Living Word*. Next month, find out what it means in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is *active*.

Upcoming Events @ EBC

April Church Work Days

Saturday, April 2
Saturday, April 30
9:00am to 2:00pm

*Refreshments
and lunch will
be provided.*

Help us beautify the church grounds and garden beds!

Watch for sign-ups in the foyer and on Realm. For more information, contact Cherryl Boston at crboston12@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

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All Eastridge ladies are invited to...

Charcuterie & Chit Chat

Join us for a cozy event of enjoying treats, discussing the faithfulness of God, and exploring with our sisters-in-Christ what it looks like to truly trust the Lord.

April 1st
Friday Night @ 7 pm
Eastridge Baptist Church

A donation of \$10 will be gratefully accepted. You can pay at the event or online through our website at eastridgebaptist.org/give or Realm (Giving). Select Women's Ministries from the list of funds.

Sign up in the foyer or on Realm and contact Jennifer Swenson with questions @ swen4son@comcast.net

JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

New Attenders' Luncheon

Sunday, March 6, 2022
@ 1:00pm
Eastridge Baptist Church

Enjoy a delicious lunch

Ask questions about Eastridge

Meet the elders and their wives

Please sign up in the foyer or contact the church office at 253.630.2327 or info@eastridgebaptist.org



EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Eastridge 101

Are you interested in becoming a member of Eastridge or would just like to know more about what we believe? Then Eastridge 101 is the class for you. Join us at Eastridge on **Sunday, March 20** from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for this informative class. Lunch is provided.

Eastridge 101 is a prerequisite for membership at Eastridge but does not obligate you to become a member. Please sign up in the foyer or RSVP in Realm (Events).



A Guide for Women's Ministry

by Jennifer Swenson

The recent Women's Ministry Vision Kickoff event in January was a wonderful way to start the year! It was an opportunity to break away from our regular Saturday morning routines and spend some time in praise, prayer, and preparation for 2022. It was truly a special morning of coming before the Lord and connecting with the women in our church.

I spent some time looking at Titus 2:1-5, 10, which is our model and guide for the Women's Ministry at Eastridge:

“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”



In looking at Titus 2, we see the call to teach sound doctrine. Paul wisely assigned the teaching, personal discipleship and nurturing of younger women to the older women of the church. Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, in her book *Adorned*, asserts that “This generational sharing of life is...a basic requirement of the Christian lifestyle.” She goes on to say that “These relationships preserve the health of the church and are not meant to weigh us down or to be one more burden but are a joy as we engage in the lives of one another.” It is our heart as a Women's Ministry team

that this type of discipleship is carried out within one-on-one relationships throughout our entire body of women.

Titus 2:10 says, “...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” This phrase in verse 10 gives the reason for the lifestyle laid out in the prior verses. To *adorn* means to make something or someone more attractive. Paul is not talking about physical adornment here, but virtue and holiness that only comes from the doctrine of God our Savior. As we teach the Word of God, we will create something of beauty in each other that will attract the world and bring glory and honor to God. I absolutely love this quote from *Adorned*, “When God's Word is learned and lived out by older and younger women together, the outcome will be stunningly beautiful. Utterly captivating. A mirror reflection of Christ.”

By living out Titus 2 together, we will be planting seeds in our souls that will flourish no matter what difficulty or challenges we face. This is echoed in the theme scripture for the Women's Ministry for 2022:

“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

In this passage, Jeremiah's writings are meant as a warning against putting one's trust in man over God. It reflects a similar passage in Psalm 1,

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams

Guide for Women's Ministry

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of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Ps. 1:1-3

This psalm speaks of someone who is absolutely immersed in the Word of God. He delights in it, and the Word fills his heart and mind. Both passages make it clear that the place Scripture occupies in a person's life is a defining characteristic. For the man who trusts the Lord, Scripture is at the center of his affections, his thoughts, and his worldview.

Jeremiah 17 points to the principle of sola scriptura—the authority, the centrality, and the sufficiency of God's Word. The Word of God is the sole infallible source of authority for our Christian faith and practice.

To me, adorned and planted go hand in hand, and as we walk through 2022, we are looking forward to teaching, learning, and living the Word of God together.

Throughout the events of this year, we will look deeper into what it looks like to truly trust the Lord, to be planted by water, to not fear the heat nor be

anxious in times of drought, and what it looks like to bear fruit. All the while we'll be working out Titus 2—being women reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine, teaching what is good, training the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands—that glory and honor may be the Lord's.

The Adorned Women's Discipleship and Bible Study program is an exciting opportunity you are going to hear about over the next several months. We are passionate about seeing this go wide and we hope every woman in our church can experience this life-changing study. It will be launched in September, and you can contact Heather Young at dhyoung177@comcast.net with questions or if you would like additional information.

We invite you to join us this year as we teach, learn, and live the Word of God together, giving opportunity for the older women to teach the younger what is good, so that in everything we may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

For our calendar of women's events for 2022, visit Eastridge's website at eastridgebaptist.org/

Family News



Two New Blessings from the Lord



Aaron and Kaylea Merrill welcomed this first child, a baby boy, into their family on Sunday, January 30 at 5:56am. **August Bennett** was 8 lb. 3oz. and 23 in. long.

Congratulations, Aaron and Kaylea on the birth of this gift from the Lord!



Congratulations to Curtis and Anna Blake on the birth of their third child, **Elijah Samuel**. Elijah joined their family on Saturday, January 29 and he was a very healthy 9 lb. 10 oz. and 20 in. long!

This precious baby boy is a brother to Eleanor (5) and Esther (3).



Shared Playlists: Music for All Seasons

by Pastor Samuel

We are excited to announce that Eastridge now has an account on the digital music service Spotify! We will be using this account to share music that you can take with you at any point in your day. There are playlists available where you can listen to the music we sing in our Sunday services—including a playlist of the upcoming Sunday's service!—as well as music for different moods and seasons. Some playlists are available now with more to come.

To find our Spotify account, you can search for "Eastridge Baptist Church" in the Spotify app or click the Spotify logo on our website (in the footer section). For more information, contact music@eastridgebaptist.org.

(Spotify is available to use for free with advertisements, but offers a paid subscription for no ads and more accessibility.)



More Family News



Welcome Our New Members

Eastridge is excited to welcome the following people into church membership:

Rebecca Pogue

Ryan Pogue

Cell Phones & the Gospel

by Cathy Mickelson

Do you have some old cell phones or iPads hanging around the house that you've been thinking about recycling but you just never got around to it? Eastridge is collecting those used items to give to *Jesus Film Project* so people around the world can watch the "JESUS" film and the follow-up series "Waking with Jesus" in one of 10 different languages. This could be huge, truly a disciple-multiplying model in closed, restricted countries!

Donated cell phones and iPads must have all personal information removed from them and must meet the following minimum requirements:

iPhones and iPads: iOS 10 or higher, iPhone 5 and higher, and iPad 4th gen and higher

Android: Android 6.0 or higher. eg. Samsung Galaxy S5 and higher

You may give your used devices to Bill or Cathy Mickelson. They can be contacted at mickelsons5@msn.com or camickelson@msn.com. This is an ongoing project.



Domestic Violence Awareness

by Bill Mickelson

There are certain things people do not like to talk about. For most people, Domestic Violence (DV) is near the top of the list. However, recent studies suggest that as many as 24% of people (men and women) experience some sort of ongoing abuse. A good working definition for DV is “a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that [are intended to] frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone.” ([What Is Domestic Abuse? | United Nations](#)). In other words, abuse is not always physical, it is often mental, emotional, and/or verbal. Unfortunately, Christians are not immune to the problem. Brenda Branson and Paula Silva wrote in *Pastor’s Guide: Dealing with Domestic Violence*, “In the pews of every church, including yours, are [people] who are victims of abuse.” ([Domestic Violence Resources: Tools For Pastors \(focusministries1.org\)](#)) In most cases, those dealing with abuse choose to suffer in silence, either out of fear of reprisal or out of embarrassment.

As Christians we are called to bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2), and **Romans 15:1-2** says, **Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.** In an effort to care for those who are burdened in this area of DV we want to make some resources available to you.

If you believe you are in danger, get to safety and call 911. If you think you might be the victim of DV, tell someone! Do not tell yourself that it is your fault or that “things will get better if... or when...” Here are some additional resources you may want to look at:

- [Sexual and Domestic Violence | DOH \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [Domestic Violence | OVW | Department of Justice](#)
- [Intimate Partner Violence | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC](#)

Here are some resources for those who want to be better equipped to help those who are suffering:

- “Becoming a Church that Cares Well for The Abused” [Church Cares | Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused](#) This is a free online video training sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention.
- [www.chrismoles.org](#) This provides resources for counselors, victims, and abusers.
- Book: *Is it Abuse? A Biblical Guide to Identifying Domestic Abuse and Helping Victims* by Darby Strickland and Sarah Zimmerman

For those who have suffered from abuse:

- Book: *Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest*, by Edward T. Welch
- Book: *When I am Afraid: A Step-by-Step Guide Away from Fear and Anxiety*, by Edward T. Welch
- Book: *Courage: Fighting Fear with Fear*, by Wayne A. Mack and Joshua Mack

“ABUSE IS
physical, sexual, emotional,
economic, or psychological
ACTIONS
or threats of actions that
influence another person.”

A Life That Encourages from the desk of Pastor Paul

We know that as those who trust in Christ we are to strive to live in holiness and obedience to our Lord (Heb. 12:14). We consider the necessity of our spiritual growth for our own benefit and for the greater glorification of God. Yet, how often do we stop to consider how our own pursuit of knowing God and living for Him impacts others? The reality of church-life dynamics is that our walk with the Lord impacts other people in some way.

Living for Christ encourages others. We see this picture of how someone's walk with Christ can

bring joy to others in 3 John. The Apostle John, author of 3 John, was encouraged by Gaius' faithful walk with Christ. Gaius was living a life dedicated to Jesus and obedient to the truth. When John would hear of others living in a way that aligned with the gospel, it brought great joy to him. He announces this joy when he writes, *"For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth"* (3 John 3-4).

Love and commitment to Christ overflowed in Gaius' interaction with others. It showed itself in his service towards them. As John addressed issues of hospitality in 3 John, we see Gaius held up as a good example to imitate. Other believers were telling John and the whole church of Gaius' faithfulness. John writes that they *"testified to your love before the church"* (3 John 6). Those who had been blessed by the brother's kindness and hospitality encouraged the rest of the church by telling of him.



This perspective is contrary to what our world wants us to think. The world says that it's all about *you*, look at *yourself*, focus on *you*, do what makes *you* happy. However, the Bible challenges that thinking. God calls us to personally walk in faith and obedience to Him. And yet, it also calls for us to consider the brethren, *"to build one another up"* (1 Thess. 5:11). The tug of our flesh wants us to criticize others in conversation. However, 3 John challenges us to consider how we can replace that criticism with encouragement. Let us spur one another on by commending each other's love and good deeds.

Personally, I saw this at work several years ago. In our final days of transition from Indiana to Washington, I would go back and tell of how Eastridge had shown such amazing hospitality and support for my family. I would tell of the love for the Word of God I saw at Eastridge. As I would share this with the church in Indiana, it brought great excitement

and joy to those who heard. When the people of God strive to live godly lives, it brings life and health to the Body of Christ.

How about your life? We show love for Christ and others by walking obediently with God. We show love for Christ and others by learning more about God and His commands. The more we seek to know God, love God, and obey God, the more it directly impacts others. Are you living in such a way that your walk with Christ, your love for others, and your service in the church are bringing encouragement to others? May we so abound in love for Christ that we can't help but rub off on others. May our lives help point others to love and good deeds for the glory of God. May abounding joy spread throughout Christ's church.

The Art of Marriage

by Cathy Mickelson

FamilyLife's *Art of Marriage Live* seminar featuring former Seahawk quarterback Jeff Kemp and his wife Stacy is coming to Puyallup's Lighthouse Christian Center on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2.

FamilyLife has been helping couples discover God's plan for relationships for more than four decades. In this live event, Jeff

and Stacy will weave together their engaging story with video clips, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and expert teaching. This interactive weekend is designed for you to enjoy some time away, be encouraged by others, and take away some practical, biblical ways to grow closer in your marriage. This weekend is created for seriously-dating, engaged, and married couples at any stage of marriage. The Friday evening program begins at 7:00pm. Saturday sessions run from 9:00am–3:00 pm. The early bird cost is \$60 per couple through March 13, and \$70 per couple after that. Your registration fee includes a Chick-fil-A lunch, snacks, and materials.

Session topics include: God's Good Plan for Marriage; Surprise, You Married a Sinner; Really Knowing Each Other; and Going the Distance: Leaving a Lasting Legacy. For more details and to register for the event, go to www.Eventbrite.com and search for "Art of Marriage Live." If you have questions, contact Cathy Mickelson at camickelson@msn.com.



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Solomon Freeman 3/1
Michael Furnare 3/1
Jason McArdel 3/2
Jeff Benjamin 3/3
Amelia Mickelson 3/3
Valerie McCafferty 3/3
Jeannette Coppess 3/4
Evelyn McArdel 3/4
Jakob Burklund 3/5
Kristen Thompson 3/5
Jack Gaines 3/5
Nicole Elliott 3/6
Claire Ramos 3/6

Joshua Barrios 3/8
George Kerr 3/10
Jane Allen 3/11
Yanan Gray 3/11
Paul Buehler 3/14
Rachel Wallace 3/14
Nancy Ebi 3/14
Jennifer McInnis 3/16
Doug Thompson 3/17
Joel McCafferty 3/18
John Rehberg 3/21
Ken Lilly 3/23
Brian Johnson 3/23
Jordan Bonn 3/23

Paul Morales 3/23
Bette Rutherford 3/24
Travis Schrock 3/25
Luca Furnare 3/25
Andrew Hayward 3/26
Mike Carlton 3/26
Peter Gray 3/26
Anna Blake 3/27
Hudson Hansen 3/28
Matthew McArdel 3/29
Hannah Young 3/29
Cathy Rossick 3/30
Brooke Hammett 3/31

Anniversaries

Shane and Yanan Gray
3/12
Paul and Chrissy
Mickelson 3/20
Al and Pat Haylor 3/22
Bryan and Anabel Elliott
3/23
Paul and Megan
Cummings 3/23
Dale and Jeannette
Coppess 3/24
Steve and Cindy
Wentworth 3/26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	2 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study	3 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study	5
6 1:00pm New Attenders' Luncheon 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	7 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	8 10:30am Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire Irish's) 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	9 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	10 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	11 8:00am Men's Bible Study	12
13	14 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	15 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	16 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	17 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study	19
20 1:00–4:00pm Eastridge 101 Class	21 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	22 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	23 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	24 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study	26
27 Communion	28 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	29 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	30 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	31 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study		

April 2022

Friday, April 1	Women's Charcuterie and Chit Chat	7:00pm @ EBC
Saturday, April 2	Church Workday	9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, April 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
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

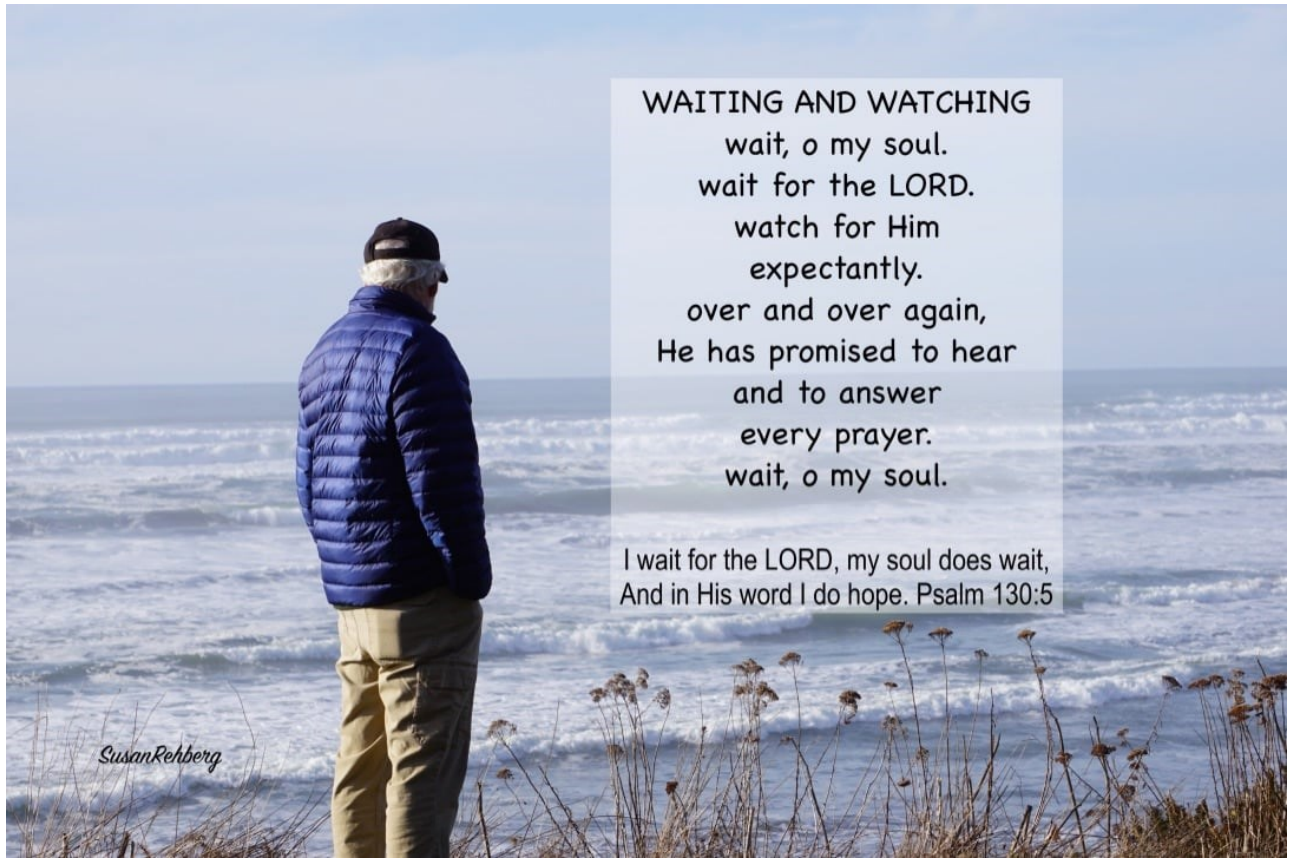
May 2022

Sunday, May 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, May 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, May 14	Church Workday	9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday, May 21	Ladies' Craft Morning	10:00am-12:00pm (@ EBC)

June 2022

Sunday, June 5	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, June 19	Promotion and Graduation Sunday	





WAITING AND WATCHING
wait, o my soul.
wait for the LORD.
watch for Him
expectantly.
over and over again,
He has promised to hear
and to answer
every prayer.
wait, o my soul.

I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,
And in His word I do hope. Psalm 130:5

SusanRehberg



EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH