

## The Next Generation

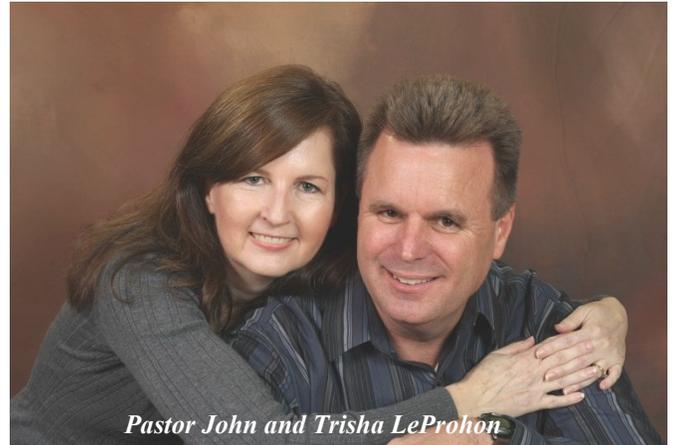
*from the desk of Pastor John*

There is a lot to be concerned about when we consider what the next generation will be like. Parents and grandparents are rightly troubled when they think about the world their children and grandchildren will grow up in. So, we do our best to teach our children and grandchildren to honor God with their lives and pray that their faith will become real and will direct their steps all the days of their lives.

We are all aware of the tragic stories of young adults who were raised in Christian homes, went to church all of their lives, made a profession of faith, were baptized, memorized Scripture, and appeared to love the Lord, only to then turn away from God and every godly influence in their lives. Unfortunately, many of them will bear the consequences of their choices for the rest of their lives.

On the flip side are those young people who truly embrace the gospel, whose faith is their own, and whose desire to honor God is real. The life choices they make are a source of true joy to their parents and to me as a pastor. The apostle John speaks for me in **3 John 1:4** when he says, **I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.** John was referring to his spiritual children, those whom he had shared the gospel with and/or discipled and

**“ My greatest joy in ministry is to see those I have shepherded walking in the truth, serving the Lord, using their gifts for God’s glory... ”**



*Pastor John and Trisha LeProhon*

nurtured in the Christian faith.

From my pastoral perspective, the greatest joy in my ministry is not the number of people who attend the church, the places I have travelled, or even the people I’ve met. My greatest joy in ministry is to see those I have shepherded walking in the truth, serving the Lord, using their gifts for

God’s glory, and exploring ways that they might be used by God.

Over the last three summers I have had the distinct privilege of seeing a dozen young men and women serve the Lord on short-term trips to Greece where they help run a summer camp for dozens of young kids. This summer, nine young adults from Eastridge made the trip, seven of whom had been on the team before. It was such a joy to serve alongside of them and to watch them live out their faith with humility and with a servant’s heart. There was no job that was beneath them and they did all things as unto the Lord. While it was

*continued on pg. 2*

a joy and privilege to preach at the church and to the campers, it was extremely gratifying to observe those young men and women from Eastridge give themselves in service to the Lord and to the kids. It was obvious that they were not serving for accolades or to be seen by others. They were serving the Lord from the heart. I have watched most of them grow from teenagers into adults who want to be used by God and glorify Him. That is my greatest joy in the ministry! I pray that they will never lose their servant hearts and will always desire to be



*Greece Team 2019 (l to r): Amanda Barrios, Jordan Olson, Rachel Roach, Ashly Barrios, Michael Gailey, Bill Mickelson, Cathy Mickelson, Kelly Tolonen, Mary Toskidi\*, Joel McCafferty, Emily Swenson, Pastor John LeProhon, Hannah Young, Dimitri Toskidi\*  
\* The Greek members of the Eastridge team*

used by God.

Serving alongside those young men & women gives me hope for the future of the church! It reminds me that the power of God to transform lives is greater than the power of the ruler of this world who attempts to steal or choke out the seed of God's Word that has been sown. When the good seed of the gospel finds the good soil of God's children, it produces fruit. What a genuine joy it is to watch the fruit grow

in the lives of those I have the privilege to shepherd.

## Welcome sweet baby girls!



Congratulations to Andy and Priscilla Craig on the birth of their fourth child, a beautiful baby girl named Evangeline Joy. She was born on July 4 at 8:04am and was 7 lb. 2 oz. and 18 in. long. Evangeline is a baby sister to Emet, Victor, and Leon.

We praise the Lord with the Craigs that Evangeline came at God's appointed time—right before Priscilla was to be induced!

Kenny and Karin Kerr welcomed their tenth child, Evangeline Rose, into their family on the Friday, July 19 at 3:15am. She weighed 9 lb. 6 oz. and was 19.5 in. long.



This sweet baby girl is a baby sister to Josh, Maria, Danny, Samuel, Benjamin, Lilly, Abigail, George, and William. Congratulations, Kenny and Karin!

## Sign-up Sundays are August 18<sup>th</sup> & August 25<sup>th</sup>

Adult small groups at Eastridge are *the* best way to get connected to others in the church and be part of a family who study God’s Word together and pray and care for each other. On August 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we will have group leaders available in the foyer before and after both services and during the Sunday School hour to answer questions and you’ll be able to sign up for a fall study.

The studies typically run from September through May and take place at the church or someone’s home. We offer women’s, men’s, and coed studies. The current schedule includes Bible studies every day of the week except Saturday. Studies that are held at the church do not have a limit on the number of attendees, while the home groups typically accommodate 12 to 16 people.

Below is the list of Bible studies that begin this fall.

<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday 5–7 pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )	One Anothers – The Body of Christ	Jeff Benjamin	Coed	Home
Sunday 6 pm; 2–3x per month	1 Corinthians	Hal Busick	Coed	Home
Monday 2 pm	1 & 2 Corinthians	Jeannie Osterman	Women	Church
Monday 6:30 pm	<i>Tactics – Effectively Discussing Your Christian Convictions</i>	Cherryl Boston	Women	Church
Monday 6:30 pm (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	Apologetics / Evangelism	Max Carlton	Coed	Church
Monday 7 pm	James, Daniel & Esther	Steve Pate	Men	Church
Tuesday 9:30 am	Psalms for the Heart	Susan Rehberg	Women	Home
Tuesday 7 pm	<i>What Did You Expect?</i> by Paul Tripp (study on marriage)	Dudley / Blakey	Young Marrieds	Church
Wednesday 7 pm	Life in the Spirit; Romans 8; Chosen of God (various scriptures)	Dean Hazelton	Coed	Home
Thursday 9:30 am	The Beauty of Holiness	Pat Haylor	Women	Church
Thursday 9:30 am	Philippians	Pam Smith	Women	Church
Thursday 7 pm	Gospel of Mark/Fear of God (Bunyan)	Derek Iverson	Coed	Home
Thursday 7 pm; for those 24+; no kids	Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians	Alex/Briana Borton	Coed	Church
Friday 5:30 am	TBD	TBD	Men	Church
Friday 7 pm	New Testament, TBD	Tolonen / Turnbull	Coed	Home

In addition to the Bible, study guides, books or other materials may be used in a study.

# Faith, Fun, and Friendships at Summer Camp 2019



Photos courtesy of Brock Burlando

As my time winds down on being a children's pastor, I offer nine reflections on the nature of children's ministry (there could be many more!).

1. **Children's ministry is for the glory of God.**

We teach children about God from His Word because He is worth knowing and worth telling about. There is no greater reality, no more needed reality, no basis of true knowledge and understanding other than a knowledge of God the Creator and Savior.

2. **Children's ministry must rely on the word of God.**

God made children. He knows what they need to know and what they need to know is contained in the Bible. They need to know God's magnificence, their origins, their sin, God's provision in Christ, wisdom for living, biblical history, things to come. All this is exclusively contained in God's

unique revelation in the written word.

3. **A good children's ministry is almost worthless**

**without a good church.** If parents drop off their kids in the greatest children's ministry ever, but are themselves fed drivel that can hardly muster for biblical teaching, the family suffers. Parents need to prioritize a church that teaches and practices biblical beliefs and living. When parents are nurtured in the word of God and put it into practice, families will thrive, and then children's ministry will be in the best position to assist parents in their God-given role.

4. **Children's ministry is expendable.** It sounds drastic, but Christ's church can survive without a children's pastor, Sunday School, Awana, kids' choir, and nursery. Those elements are valuable and can have eternal effects on the lives of many. But it is Christ who builds His church, and He does so through the Spirit as His Word is

preached by His people. This can happen with or without a formal children's ministry. But the church can not survive without a prioritized preaching of His Word.

5. **Volunteers in children's ministry are just as important as the children in children's ministry.**

The work of the ministry is impossible without the laborers of the ministry. Children are the beneficiaries of countless hours of almost countless volunteers. The volunteers need to be invested in the significance of what they are doing, and see it as more than childcare. It is a ministry of eternal relevance to families.

6. **Fun is not evil, nor is it essential, but it should be present.** Kids laugh easily. While not innocent, they have an innocence that often lends

itself to fun. They don't carry the weight of the world on their shoulders. When we serve them, their fun becomes ours, and we

are all blessed and enjoy the delights the Lord has put into this world. A children's ministry without fun is, well, no fun.

7. **When I began at Eastridge, I was surprised at the level of organization and administration required for children's ministry.**

But organization is loving when it enables volunteers to do their job without the additional burden of not knowing what, where, or when they are supposed to be doing something. And as I learned from another volunteer early on, being in charge of children requires much planning. To give them unplanned free time is to ask for trouble.

8. **Children's ministry requires waiting, like every other ministry.** Once in a while you see the light bulb go on for a child about a particular biblical truth. But more often you may feel like



## Children's Ministry *(continued from pg. 5)*

you are turning the lights off in the room and putting them to sleep. God's Word, however, still weaves itself into the child's mind so that as they grow they know right from wrong, recall verses they've memorized, and know the way of salvation. We wait to see what their response to God's Word will be.

9. **Eternity is almost always a child's favorite topic.** The lessons that are always the most engaging to kids are the ones on heaven. When you speak with a child about what heaven will be like, their imaginations light up and they fill up with wonder.

## Youth Camp *(cont. from pg. 4)*



## Annual School Supply Drive

Joan Johnson, Welcome Room coordinator at East Hill Elementary, extends her great appreciation to the members of Eastridge for their generous donation of school supplies in past years. Once again we will be collecting items to donate to the students at the school who don't have the means to provide their own supplies.

**You can drop your school supply donations in the collection barrel in the foyer.** Donated items will be delivered to the school before the start of the school year which begins August 29.

Here is the list of needed supplies for the coming school year:

- ✎ Pencil sharpeners with case
- ✎ Dividers (package of at least 5 ct.)
- ✎ Two-bottom pocketed plastic folders (any color)
- ✎ Two-bottom pocketed cardboard folders (any color)
- ✎ Glue sticks any size or color (*NO liquid bottles please*)
- ✎ Colored pencils (packages of 10 or 12)
- ✎ Colored markers (packages of 10 or 12)
- ✎ White board markers (dark colors if possible)
- ✎ Blunt-ended scissors (no pointed ones please)
- ✎ Composition notebooks (wide rule - any color/design on cover)
- ✎ Composition graph paper notebooks (any color/design on cover)
- ✎ Spiral-bound notebooks (wide rule - any color/design on cover)
- ✎ Shoelace head phones (upper grades use them daily). Dollar Tree item
- ✎ Jumbo pencils (for kindergarteners)
- ✎ Ticonderoga pencils (pre-sharpened)

If you have any questions about the school supply drive, contact Cathy Mickelson at 253-569-3468 or [camickelson@msn.com](mailto:camickelson@msn.com).

Time is a precious commodity. We are each allotted only a certain amount of it on earth but we don't always know when our time is up. King Solomon lamented this fact when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 9, "This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all... they go to the dead" (v. 3). Yet despite this bleak outlook—that everyone comes to the same end regardless of the life they lived—Solomon still encourages his readers to make the most of the life they have been given, even if it is fleeting. That same encouragement is also found in Psalm 90, the one psalm written by Moses.

Moses begins this psalm praising God for His eternity: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God" (v. 2). Even though God works within the confines of time that He established in Creation, He exists distinct from time. Theologians have referred to this as God living in an eternal present. Moses expresses this idea in verse 4 when he writes, "For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night." As the One who created time and everything that lives within its constraints, God has the ultimate authority over everything in our universe (as seen in v. 3).

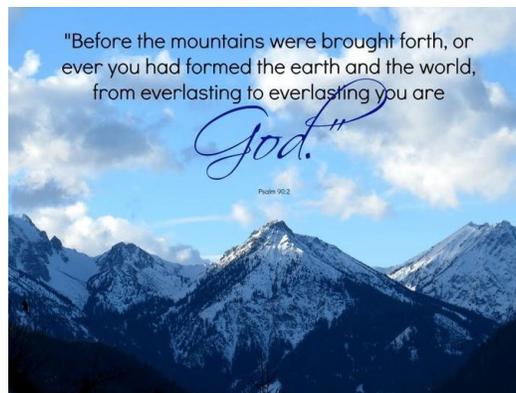
In contrast to God's eternity, Moses gives specific focus to the fact that man is temporal. Our lives flourish and wither in the same way that grass does (see vv. 5–6). We have no ultimate control over our length of life; God is the one who has numbered our days:

"For we are brought to an end by Your anger" (v. 7);  
 "For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh" (v. 9).

Our lifespan is cut short primarily because of the pervasiveness of sin in our lives. (God's pronouncement

of humanity's age limit is set in Genesis 6:3.) No sin is hidden from God's sight, and sin has caused death to reign in all of creation (v. 8; see also Hebrews 4:13 and Romans 5:12–14).

Not only is our lifespan cut short, but sin and its effects cause us grief and toil during our life. Moses calls our lives "but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away" (v. 10). At the time of the fall, God promised Adam that the ground would be cursed and that work would be far more strenuous than it had been. We feel that stress and hardship as we work each day, no matter what the situation may be.



In light of the awareness of our finite nature and weakness in comparison to God's eternal power, Moses commits himself (and his readers) to God in verse 12: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." God is the only one who can teach us how to use the

days we've been given in a way that is honoring to Him. The apostle Paul also charges us to "make the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15–17; see also Colossians 4:5–6). Moses lays out five ways we can make the best use of our lives: By being attentive to what God says in His Word (v. 12); by being satisfied in His steadfast love above all else (v. 14); by recounting the work of God in our lives (v. 15); by seeing God's hand at work in each day we live (v. 16); and by trusting Him to work in us with each new day we're given (v. 17).

Our time on this earth is fleeting. The best thing we can do with the time we do have is to commit it to God and live to bring Him glory. May our lives reflect the prayer found in this Isaac Watts' hymn:

*O God, our help in ages past  
 Our hope for years to come  
 Be Thou our Guard while life shall last  
 And our eternal home.*

# FAREWELL

Join us as we bid farewell to  
**ANDY & PRISCILLA CRAIG & FAMILY**  
as they move to New York to answer God's call to ministry there  
Sunday, August 28, 2019 at 6:00pm  
Eastridge Baptist Church  
Dessert and drinks will be served

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- |                        |                         |                                |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Ashley Small 8/1       | Linda Pate 8/19         | Ziva Freeman 8/30              | Dean and Pat Hazelton 8/17             |
| Ryan Sheridan 8/1      | Carol Buehler 8/19      | Katie Teeler 8/31              | David Dantzcher and Noel Ahlstrom 8/18 |
| Lauren Thompson 8/2    | Stephen Mickelson 8/19  | Henry McArdel 8/31             | Nazar and Lily Brichka 8/23            |
| Haley Ausen 8/3        | Jonathan Skeith 8/20    |                                | Mike and Valerie McCafferty 8/25       |
| Silesh Mansukhani 8/4  | Lyndee Majer 8/20       | <u>Anniversaries</u>           | Pete and Pam Emme 8/25                 |
| Jason Ausen 8/7        | Benjamin Kusack 8/21    | Aaron and Kaylea Merrill 8/2   | Christian & Teresa Saenger 8/25        |
| Sarah Kusack 8/7       | Ryker Elliott 8/21      | Sal and Shannon Guevara 8/3    | Stephen and KayLee Groot 8/26          |
| Ron Sandelius 8/12     | Emily Goheen 8/22       | Jon and Stephanie Knipp 8/3    | Steve and Patty Mozel 8/27             |
| Don Hunt 8/13          | Sean Kelsey 8/23        | Bruce and Karen Diehl 8/8      | Mike and Joy Goheen 8/28               |
| Mike Aranowski 8/13    | Marlene Mansukhani 8/23 | Tom and Lisa Horne 8/11        | Richard and Marjean Goheen 8/28        |
| Noah Skeith 8/14       | Annika Mayes 8/24       | Steve and Judy Peltekian 8/12  | Joe and Sarah Kusack 8/29              |
| Andrew McInnis 8/14    | Clement Eng 8/26        | Samuel and Shannon Blakey 8/15 | Don and Jane Allen 8/31                |
| Cathy McMinn 8/14      | Amy Peyton 8/27         | Daniel and Raquel Turner 8/17  | Dave and Heather Carlson 8/31          |
| Carol Iverson 8/15     | Nicole Dudley 8/28      |                                |  |
| Sam Martinez 8/17      | Kelly Tolonen 8/28      |                                |  |
| Elise Trzeciak 8/17    | Jo Aranowski 8/28       |                                |  |
| Rachelle Mayes 8/17    | Steve Mozel 8/28        |                                |  |
| Chrissy Mickelson 8/18 | Nazar Brichka 8/28      |                                |  |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	2	3
4  <b>6:00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting (Auditorium)</b>	5  6:30–8:00pm Apologetics / Evangelism Group	6  5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo	7  6:30pm 128 Student Ministries	8  7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	9	10
11  <b>6:00pm Youth Pizza @ PR's</b>	12	13  10:30am Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire Irish's ) 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Elder Mtg	14  6:30pm 128 Student Ministries	15  7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	16	17  <b>Noon–3:00pm Primetimers' Potluck @ Roy Yeomans'</b>
18  <b>Small Group Sign-ups (foyer)</b>	19  6:30–8:00pm Apologetics / Evangelism Group	20  5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo	21  6:30pm 128 Student Ministries	22  7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	23	24
25  <b>Small Group Sign-ups (foyer) Communion 6:00pm Going Away Dessert for the Craigs</b>	26  6:30–8:00pm Apologetics / Evangelism Group	27  5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo	28  6:30pm 128 Student Ministries	29  7:00pm Worship Team Practice	30	31

# Upcoming Events at Eastridge

## September 2019\*

Sunday, September 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, September 8	Youth Pizza	6:00 (location TBD)
Tuesday, September 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Wednesday, September 18	Awana Registration Night	6:30pm
Saturday, September 28	Youth Back to School Bash	TBD

\* Small groups at Eastridge start up in September/October. See page 3 for details on studies being offered.

## October 2019

Sunday, October 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, October 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, October 11– Saturday, October 12	Bible Quiz Meet @ EBC	Times TBA
Saturday, October 12	All-church Dinner	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Friday, October 25– Saturday, October 26	Youth Secret Church @ EBC	Time TBD

## November 2019

Sunday, November 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, November 10	Youth Pizza	6:00pm (location TBD)
Tuesday, November 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, November 23	Primetimers' Thanksgiving Meal	Noon (Auditorium)

**Mark your calendar...**





This month marks the last time I will be writing a newsletter article as the youth pastor at Eastridge Baptist Church. God has graciously allowed me to serve in this position for the past ten years, and it has been a joy and an honor to serve Him and the families of His church. Looking back over the last ten years, there is much that I have learned, and many blessings that the Lord has bestowed. There is much to be thankful for, and I have three points that I hope succinctly express the gratitude and appreciation of my heart for the gracious gift of ministering to the students of EBC.

First, I am thankful for this great church. Words cannot express how important it is to have a church that fully supports what we do in youth ministry. From the beginning of my time here, it was my desire to make sure that our students understood that they were part of the church body (1 Cor 12:12-26). As part of the family here at Eastridge, we have a responsibility to love and serve as we fulfill the roles and use the giftedness God has given to us (2 Peter 4:10-11). To this end, there has been much that this church has done to love and embrace us. One specific example is the support for our camps. For many years you allowed us to take up precious parking spaces in order to sell fireworks. Each year, I have multiple people offer scholarships to help students get to camp. Many others have shown love by praying for us and our students, knowing the significance of the teenage years and how this is the time students begin to make the faith their own. There are many more examples I could mention, but just know that I am thankful for the love of Eastridge Baptist Church.

Second, I am thankful for the great people that I have had the privilege of serving with. Over the years, God

has provided tremendous helpers, volunteers, and youth staff to work alongside of: Dawna, Jennifer, Daniel, Katie, Stephen, Brock, Jordan, Will, KayLee, Lauren, Danielle, Sam, Bruce, Tim, Laurie, Jason, Jill, Briana, Alex, Lynnette, Casey, and Cindy, along with countless parents. I'm sure I am missing some, but these individuals have been faithful in their love for the Lord and their love for the students. These precious folks have sacrificed time from work, time from family, sleep, and much more to ensure that the students of EBC hear the gospel and know the love of Christ, and they have provided godly examples of what it means to follow our Great Savior. It has been one of the greatest joys of this ministry to serve together with these men and women.

Last, but definitely not least, I am thankful for our great God who has given us His Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, and He has been faithful to bless the work of His Word through His Spirit. We have also seen God provide in amazing ways as He gave us a great room to meet in, camps to attend, service projects to perform, safety in our travels, and tons of fun events to enjoy. However, the greatest thing that we have seen God do is work in the lives of our students. One of my greatest joys these days is to see those who have gone through the ministry serving the Lord, either at our church or elsewhere. Another joy is being able to perform the weddings of those who were once students in the ministry.

These ten years have been a tremendous example of God fulfilling His promise that He sends forth His Word and it will not return void. I praise Him for the time He has given me in my role as youth pastor and look forward to how He will continue to work and bless student ministries here at EBC.





*Youth Camp 2019*



**EASTRIDGE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH