



EVANGEL

2010 WHITEFISH STAGE ~ KALISPELL, MT • 406-752-7021

JAN/FEB 2012

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

A New Year dawns over the horizon in the next few days. Each year at this time, I find myself looking backwards to evaluate life and ministry, while also looking forward to all the New Year will bring. This year seems to demand a little extra consideration because I have just completed 20 years of ministry at Easthaven. I arrived in our valley at the completely unproven, 'wet behind the ears' age of 26 years old. If I can survive and you'd choose to keep me until I reach the age of 66, then I am officially half way through my tenure. So, how are we doing? Is God working in a way that validates the journey that we've shared together? I'm not really sure exactly how to answer that question. If the answer is strictly based on numbers and statistics, we might make a somewhat decent case for saying "yes!" Our average weekly worship attendance has grown from about 90 people to a weekly average of 685 last year. In 1991 our annual budget was just under \$100,000 and this next year our budget is just over \$1,000,000. In many ways we should rejoice before the Lord and celebrate the good things He's done; however, the work is far from over and I am far from satisfied.

During the same 20 years, the population of Flathead County has grown from about 58,000 to about 90,000 people. The best statistics in 1991 guessed that about 10% of our county's population was involved in some local church. The reality then was that we were grossly "under-churched" and while several new churches have started, most of them have died during this same time frame. At the same time, very few churches in our community have experienced significant growth and our current church attendance numbers would probably indicate that we might have at best maintained our 10% involvement rate.

As we head into the coming year, or twenty, let's ask ourselves honestly, "Will we be satisfied if the numbers stayed about the same as they are today?" My answer is a resounding "No!" We are called to build the kingdom of God, to live out the great commission, to bear the gospel message and to live as

faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, how are we doing? Can we do more? The bottom line is that we have to do more, and bigger, and better, and more faithfully if we are to radically change the status quo. So, can we have a significant impact on the spiritual climate of our community? If so, how will we do that? That seems to be the million dollar question and the simple answer is that we need to major on the main things.

The nation of Israel faced a significant season of transition under King Solomon as they dedicated the temple in Jerusalem. The conditional word of the Lord came to them saying, "*If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face...*". Those are the things that are our responsibility and they are all things that we can control, if we will choose to prioritize our lives accordingly. If these things were done, God promised "...*then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land.*" I'm convinced that we are standing at a point of decision together and can either make significant strides and progress or sit back and coast in hopes that someone else will take up the cause and advance the gospel.

As I enter the second half of my journey in ministry, I am sensing a call to rekindle the things that God has called us to do with a greater sense of purpose and passion. In my personal life I want to be more diligent in living in humility, praying constantly and seeking God's face. In a very practical way, this means pursuing the disciplines that form and grow our personal spiritual lives.

Starting this January for three months, we will be studying a series of sermons entitled "Growth Rings – Expanding Upward and Outward in Christ". The series focuses on the ways that our spiritual lives develop and grow. As we start this New Year, let's renew our commitment to focus on the disciplines that will fulfill our commitment to Jesus and then trust that He will in turn hear our prayers, forgive our sins and begin healing our land.

May God bless us as we seek Him!
Pastor Daniel <><



Pastor Daniel S. Lambert - dlambert@easthaven.org

Associate Pastor Joey Gardner - jgardner@easthaven.org

Associate Pastor Peter Bergen - pbergen@easthaven.org

Associate Pastor Matthew Fitzwater - mfitzwater@easthaven.org

Associate Pastor Andy McPeak - amcpeak@easthaven.org

Associate Pastor Frank Shelt - fshelt@easthaven.org

SMALL GROUPS

Ever wondered what goes on in a Small Group at Easthaven? We have decided to feature one of our small groups this month to let you know what a blessing being part of one can be for you. Thanks to Justin McKerrow for taking the time to answer a few of our questions!

Easthaven: How long has your small group been meeting?

Justin: This is our second small group since we have attended Easthaven. Our current group has been meeting for about a year. Several families in our group have been meeting for the past 5 years.

Easthaven: What is the "make-up" of your group? (young marrieds, singles, etc.)

Justin: Married couples and Singles; Children welcome

Easthaven: What are you studying currently?

Justin: The Truth Project Series

Easthaven: Has your small group reached out to the community in any form of service?

Justin: Yes, We are going to adopt a family in our church that has some needs. We will provide food and gifts for their family at Christmas. For the past 4 Christmases, we have been adopting a family in the community through the Ray of Hope

organization, providing Christmas meal and gifts. We have tried to provide for the unique needs of the family, for instance one year we built bunk beds and provided mattresses. We have served in the church by participating in making Wednesday night meals and supporting the "drop your child off to go Christmas shopping" event.

Easthaven: What are some blessings you personally have received as a small group leader?

Justin: We have been blessed to see others rise up and form their own groups, dividing our large group into 3 smaller ones recently or develop as leaders within the group. I enjoy helping others connect with each other; making the big church into a small church and developing some of the closest relationships we have.

Easthaven: Blessings you have received as a small group member?

Justin: I have been blessed with fellowship, friendship, and many faith building conversations. The biggest blessing is the small community that is formed through relationships within our group. These are the people with whom we can share our daily lives.

Easthaven: Why do you believe small groups are important for the people of Easthaven to belong to?

Justin: First, the small group setting is the best way to connect with people and form meaningful relationships within the body of Christ. Second, the small group setting provides a great opportunity for leadership, discipleship, and personal growth.

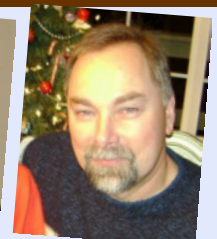
If you are interested in connecting with others and growing in your walk with God, a small group is an excellent addition to Sunday Service and other personal Bible study. To get into a group, just ask someone you know about their group or see one of the Small Group Ministry Coaches at the SGM table in the Foyer.

MEET YOUR DEACONS...

To help you get better acquainted with our Deacons, you will see their pictures in our newsletter regularly. Their names and phone numbers are listed in the church bulletin, or on our website in the "Contact Us" link. There are three deacons assigned for each week to be at your service. Call one of them if you have need of assistance.



Dan Naldrett



George Strickle

Here to serve you!

50+

LUNCHEON

Friday, January 6, 2012—12 NOON

If you are 50 or over, we want to invite you to connect with other active people your age on the first Friday of every month. We have interesting and inspiring speakers, good food, and friends old and new waiting to see you.

The program for January is Chris Krager, director of the Samaritan House (Kalispell's homeless shelter) He has some interesting stories and information to share.

Our inspirational speaker is Associate Pastor, Frank Shelt.

There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 to cover the cost of a GOOD meal and program.



First timers & guests are FREE!

Whether you've been a Christian for 30 days or 30 years, there is always room for expansion of maturity in your relationship with Christ. Join us for the next 3 months for a sermon series that focuses on the ways our spiritual lives can continue to develop and grow. There are study guides available for a suggested donation of \$2/book.

Expanding **UPward** and **Outward**
IN CHRIST
GROWTH RINGS

The Easthaven Woman's Guide 2012

By Sue Cheff

So... it's 2012. A New Year, a New Beginning, and hopefully New Direction and Purpose centered on God. It's been a busy Fall and beginning of Winter for so many of you. I don't know what your challenges are; what God is doing in your life; or where you think He is headed. You may feel as if you are along for the ride, being drug along, or charging forth and in the lead. I find myself each day in all three; willing to follow God; seeking His direction, but in my Type A personality and humanity really trying to figure out the plan – am I alone? I try to remind myself that God is in control and He does have a plan. He promises in Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

This year has been my busiest. I can't tell you why or even the main ingredient it just has been and STRESS has been my constant companion. And I know; it's a sin and I am allowing it to rule my life. As I attempt to seek God daily, (I mean it! Ya gotta fend off the enemy DAILY – and I personally struggle with being in God's word and seeking His promises and Truth!) I can find and the Enemy can throw MANY distractions my way; laundry, dinner, house, schedules, ya know...but Sister, you gotta seek your Father. Oh if I only dwelt on the LOVE of my Jesus! Phil 4:6 says *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

What about you? I pray it has been a Great or wonderful 2011 and that you are excited for the plans God has for you. I pray that when you reach in to grab your schedule, keys, life... God shakes it up and pours His Grace, Love, Mercy all over you sister! Seek His face, Seek His truth and promises, and allow God to catch you pour His grace all over you this year. Luke 10:27 reveal the greatest Commandment: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*

So I encourage you my sisters to look outward to our community and who God brings into your life everyday; allow them to encourage you and challenge you to Love God boldly. I encourage you to plug into a small group; start and keep a daily devotional; and gather yourself some Christian Girlfriends to keep you strong in your Journey this year. God Bless.

Upcoming Women's Ministry Events: January 21st 2012 11AM to 1PM

Lady's Luncheon

Special Guest: Karen Spaulding \$5 per person No childcare available

How can you help? Contact Sue at 406-212-0285 or cheffs@sd5.k12.mt.us

January's Event: Lunch mixers & makers, setup and cleanup, We'd like to do a SECRET SISTER exchange as well.

All the Single Ladies! Symone is looking for other single moms, single gals to network with for small groups, friends and encouragers, and events. Contact her for more information: Symone Atondo at 250-0109 or symone071@gmail.com

FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Facilities Committee (formerly Buildings & Grounds) is responsible for the maintenance of our facilities. This includes routine issues such as snow removal and lawn care, as well as improvements and upgrades. The committee encourages comments from the congregation regarding needs and problems you may be aware of. Many of you see things we don't, so please feel free to let us know. We need to keep our facilities in great shape! Contact any of these committee members with your concerns:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Josh Giffin | Jeff Strand | Zack Husted |
| Jim Dugan | Billie Estes | Joe Hermisillo |
| Ken Kaufman | | Kristi Willits |

For your information, some of the projects we have recently done, or plan to do include the following:

2011 MAJOR PROJECTS

- Seal coat parking lot and repaint parking stripes
- Constructed overflow parking areas at NW and SW corners of property
- Purchased additional 15-passenger van for youth and other activities

PLANNED 2012 PROJECTS

- Upgrade telephone system
- Install video surveillance camera system
- Insulate South wall of Room 401 to reduce sound from sanctuary.

Support a Good Cause...

You may have heard on K-Love about GoodSearch & GoodShop. They operate a search engine and online store that gives back to non-profits. Easthaven is listed as a non-profit you can support.

- GoodSearch.com- The search engine with a unique social mission. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great search results, and each time you search, GoodSearch donates about a penny to your cause!
- GoodShop.com - The online marketplace that donates a percentage of each purchase to your organization. You can choose from more than 2,500 popular merchants and the experience of shopping through GoodShop is exactly the same as going to the retailer's websites directly.
- GoodDining.com - The first 365 day a year Dine for Charity program. Dine in or take out at over 10,000 participating restaurants nationwide. Up to 6% of your total check including tax and tip will be donated to Easthaven Baptist Church.

It is pretty easy to use. Just make sure you identify Easthaven as your **Cause**.

ATTENDANCE ~ GIVING RECORDS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (DEC. MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		SEEKING GOD THROUGH HIS WORD (DEC. MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		FINANCIAL REPORT (MONTH TO DATE AS OF DECEMBER 25)	
Easthaven Baptist Church	654	Sunday Morning Bible Study	119	YTD Budget Requirement	\$853,947
Kila Country Church, Kila	47	Nightlife (Discipleship studies)	400	YTD Receipts	\$890,918
Convergence Ministries, Missoula	34	Assisted Living Bible Studies	7	Month to date budget requirement	\$65,090
		Total Average	526	Month to date receipts	\$76,971

GET CONNECTED



WHAT'S UP AT EASTHAVEN?

Are you interested in what is happening at your church? We here at Easthaven are always trying to let you know what is going on. What tools do we use?



My Easthaven-Each person has their own unique log-in. View your contributions, the EBC calendar, an online directory, and register for upcoming events. Also, you can email your small group, or print mailing address labels if you want to send them a card. We encourage you to log-in, update any information so we can stay connected. You can even update the photo we have attached to your name for the directory. Wow, what an amazing tool available to members.

Quick access link: <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin.aspx?sn=114395>

Online Giving-We encourage everyone to give according to how God leads them, whether that be at the service or online. By choosing to give online, you can set-up automatic dates to give your tithe. Currently you can ONLY give online to 3 accounts: General, The Bank Payment, and the Loving Each Other. Give online by either electronic check, Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. This is available to members and non-members.

Quick access link: through My Easthaven OR www.easthaven.org

Online Event Registration-Did you forget to register for an event while at church? You can now do it online. Register through My Easthaven or create a guest account to register. This is available to members and non-members.

Quick access link: through My Easthaven OR www.easthaven.org



Facebook-Want to know what's for Wednesday Night Supper and don't have your bulletin? We post the menu, Awana theme nights, and lots more for you on facebook. If you're not friends with us find us!

Quick access link: www.facebook.com/easthaven

Website-Want more information? Go to our website. There you'll find more information about what we believe, service times, Bible studies, the Small Group Study Guide, our calendar and more!

Quick access link: www.easthaven.org

Prayer Chain-We believe in the power of prayer! Want to be part of our prayer chain? Let Kathy Van Someren know by contacting the church office at 752-7021 or by email, kvansomeren@easthaven.org. Once added, you can send a prayer request by simply emailing: prayer@list.easthaven.org.

If you have questions about these tools, please contact Kristi Willits at kwillits@easthaven.org or the church office 752-7021.