

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

A new year is beginning and an old year is ending. 2009 is rather like the opening line from Charles Dickens' novel A Tale of Two Cities — "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." For many families who are a part of the Easthaven family, this last year has caused them to rely on the Lord more than at any time in their lives. They've seen the loss of jobs; they've faced empty pantries; they've scratched out mortgage payments; they've downsized vehicles and eliminated any recreational amenities. It's been a tough year and for the first time in many of their lives, they've found themselves really needy.

On the other hand, there are others who have experienced God's absolute goodness and grace and have allowed Him to use them as conduits for His blessings to flow to their own church family. In my 18 years of ministry, I have never seen so many people helped in so many exciting, and literally house-saving ways as I have this year. From past-due electric bills, to sacks and sacks of groceries, from rent payments to car payments, from pick-up work for church families that paid the exact amount needed to meet that next payment, to several vehicles donated to be given away, the Easthaven family has stepped up to love and care for one another this year. In the book of Acts, the early church is described in this way, "...and they had all things in common."



— continued on page 3

## HIGH SCHOOL/ MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

The High School and Middle School Ministries at Easthaven are in the last step of creating separate ministries. Each now has a unique identity, but both will follow Easthaven's purpose of making disciples by gathering, growing and going.

The High School Ministry is using the metaphor of FUSION as it's name. Fusion is the process in which two hydrogen molecules encounter the immense power of the sun and are transformed into one helium molecule. In the process they emit light. That's what we want to happen on Wednesday nights with our students. We want students to ...

- **Encounter** Christ and God's power through worship, scripture, testimony and fun. (Gather)
- **Be Transformed** by God's power and become more like Christ. (Grow)
- **Unify** or grow in their relationship with other believers (Grow)
- **Shine** for God as they live and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Go)

The Middle School Ministry is now called IGNITE. Whenever you see these logos . . .  they are referring to information about our 6-8 grade students here at Easthaven. We  are about "Igniting a passion for Jesus Christ in the lives of Middle Schoolers"! During our next series we will be spending three weeks talking about what a "passion for Jesus Christ" is and how we IGNITE it!!

Grace & Peace

~Pastor Joey & Pastor Andy



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## CARE MINISTRY

This ministry has been able to help many people this past year. We have been able to help with requests for wood for winter, vehicles through Resurrected Wrecks, car repairs, tires, food from the Shepherd Shelves, as well as help with mortgages, rent, fuel assistance and power.

All this has been provided by God through families of Easthaven who have cared for others by contributing to the “Benevolence” or “Loving Each Other” fund.

Recently, Pastor Job received an inquiry of how to help someone in need. Here’s his advise which will help all of us: You can designate a donation to these two places...

Benevolence - this is used for anyone who walks in off the street looking for aid. Sometimes the aid takes the form of rental assistance, sometimes food (we have a lot on hand) sometimes a vehicle through resurrected wrecks, etc. I (Sharon) manage these funds. There are plenty of requests.

Loving Each Other - this is used for church members who need assistance. This assistance is for similar needs but sometimes in larger amounts - an entire mortgage payment of \$580 for example. I have a team that reviews these types of requests with me and determines how to disburse the funds.

For your donation to be tax deductible, you cannot specify who the recipient is (except for pastoral support, which is a different deal to the IRS). We have received a number of requests for assistance recently. Both of these designated accounts have money on hand, but we can always use more.

If you are not concerned about the tax deduction, and want to get money to a specific family that you know of who is in need - we can still help with that too. We can accept the funds and disburse it to them “from an anonymous donor”.

If you have a vehicle you want to give to Resurrected Wrecks, contact Curt Ethington. Many have been blessed through this ministry and many more could be.

Have a blessed New year and thank you for being a blessing throughout 2009.

~Sharon Shropshire

## ADULT NIGHTLIFE

It’s that time of year again, A New Year and a New Quarter for Adult Nightlife—starting Jan. 6th. We have some wonderful classes lined up for the Winter Quarter:

- **Wood Ticks** led by Jeff Moser. A class for men only with an outdoorsman focus.
- **Beth Moore—Breaking Free**, the journey and stories, revised and updated, led by Jill Hembroff,
- **Young Married Class**, with Don & Molly Thibert. After completing a study from the fall session, the group will study The Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas.
- **Women’s Ministry Class** with Bobbi Nygarrrd, Life is tough, but God is Faithful: How to see God’s love in difficult times.
- **Islam/Christianity** with Tom Osborne to start Jan. 13th,
- **Disciple/Leadership with Prayer**, with Suny Cheff. This class will address a separate topic each week. All are welcome at any time.
- **Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**, led by John & Tricia Goyer.

Starting in February is **Financial Peace University**, by Dave Ramsey, with Marcus & Kim Brown leading; and **The Truth Project** will be back, with Zel Brooks leading.

For more details, see the red brochures at the Ministry Information Table and sign up early as space is limited for some classes.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Greetings from the Library volunteers.

We now have the entire set (Old and New Testament) of the Tyndale Commentaries. We have been putting new books out on the shelves each week but it is a slow process and we (Eloise, Joan and Judy) could certainly use some help. We work every Tuesday morning 10-12 in the Library—if you have an interest, show up and we’ll put you to work. Also, look around your home to see if you have some past due books—we have many overdue books that others could be enjoying. Thanks, and hope to see a few of you on a Tuesday morning.



All are encouraged to attend a PLACE workshop in 2010. At this time we have workshops scheduled in both January and March. You can find the signup sheets on the Ministry Information Table

**What is PLACE?**

PLACE is an intentional process to connect church members into ministry. It includes self discovery, individualized ministry coaching targeted ministry placement. Through the PLACE process, people discover that God has created and gifted them with a unique capacity to serve others.

The PLACE process starts when you attend the two three-hour workshop sessions. The workshops are followed up by a personal coaching session where you can talk through what you learned about God and how He gifted you for ministry.

**Why is PLACE Important?**

Today, more than any other time in history, people are bombarded with multiple choices as to how to give their time. They find themselves asking, “Where do I fit in?”, “Why am I here?” and “What can I do to make a lasting difference in my life and the lives of others?”

God created each of us for a purpose. *“For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10. Part of his purpose for us is to edify the church and to serve in its ministries. *“...to prepare God’s people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”* Ephesians 4:12.

The PLACE process can help you discover how God has uniquely designed you, and help you realize His purpose for your life. *You find your life as you give it away...* but first you need to know what you have to give.

**What do Easthaven folks have to say about PLACE?**

*Very valuable six hours.*

*Helped me to see how God built each of us in different & unique ways – but then brings us together to work as His team.*

*So worth the time and effort.*

*It helped free me from feeling guilty about meeting needs for which I am not equipped.*

*Builds up passion and excitement for going to a place where God is using you.*

Contact Pastor Job with questions about PLACE.

— continued from front page

Meaning they took tangible care of one another and that is precisely what has happened here this year.

In our community, which is facing the worst unemployment in the state, we’ve seen the hand of God move through us in amazing ways. I’ve seen families who were literally on the verge of becoming homeless taken in by other families and given a place to live. I’ve seen people who were at the point of losing their only running vehicle receive a set of keys to a vehicle that will get them to and from work and church and allow them to keep going. It’s been that kind of year. Obviously, all of us would choose to be on the “giving” side of the fence, but because of the circumstances we’ve faced together, regardless of which side of the fence you’re on, take a few minutes at the outset of this new year and ask yourself, “Can God entrust abundant resources to me, knowing that I’ll give and share with others as needs arise?” I believe there is plenty to go around, we just have to ensure that we don’t become the bottleneck in the system where the giving stops. Let’s make 2010 the year we give in ways that “are beyond all that we could ever ask or think” and show our community what it means to love one another.

God bless you for your generous hearts this last year!

~Pastor Daniel <><

Easthaven welcomes  
**Kristi Willits**  
to our part-time office staff!

She will serve alongside Lisa and Kathy in the church office. Her regular hours are Monday – Thursday 9-5.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our first ladies Christmas party was a **sold-out** affair, although the weather kept some from attending. A very special **thank you** to the **10 table hostesses** who did a fantastic job of creating beautiful theme tables, and to our wonderful waiters—**Carl Bailey, Dan Naldrett, and Bill Phillips!** **Darren and Carly Banek** prepared an elegant meal and put in an incredible amount of creative love—not to mention hours of hard work—to add to the festive evening. Thanks also to all who came early and stayed late to help us decorate and tear down. And thank you to all those who came and joined in the fun we shared together. We learned that one woman's white elephant really can be another woman's treasure!

The Christmas party also served as “graduation” for those who were enrolled in the fall Stepping Up leadership Bible Study. Part of that study included a planning practicum for several events through the fall including our kick-off potluck, November game night, and the ladies Christmas Party. All three events were well attended and we are planning another game night in February, so watch for details. Our purpose for all of these events is to connect women to better know and love each other so that we can minister to each other and build up the Body. Director Bobbi Nygaard explains that Women's Ministries is a cross roads for women of all generations, interests, and ministries to interface and support each other. We are not in competition with any other ministry but it is our desire to provide a connection point that will in turn strengthen all Easthaven ministries.

A number of ladies were privileged to take the Spiritual Gifts Bible Study last fall. All agreed this was a wonderful growth opportunity. **Kristin Bay** summarized the study saying, *“I've studied spiritual gifts before, but this time I gained a whole new insight on how God made me and the impact He has on every area of my life.”* A unique part of this study was a review of what the Word has to say on spiritual gifts and then reviewing both the positive characteristics and possible weaknesses for the gifts. We learned how valuable each gift—and therefore each person—is to the functioning of the Body.

Most of those who completed the study also at-

tended a six-hour PLACE workshop led by Pastor Job. This seminar built on what we had learned and we discovered how our spiritual gifts, personality, abilities, passions, and life experiences all work together to help us find our particular place of service within the Body. Thanks to Pastor Job for leading the training and to both he and Marie Dittmer who met with us individually following the workshop to coach us regarding our place of service. We urge others to take the opportunity to grow through future PLACE workshops.

*Your Women's Ministries Team:*

*Kristin Bay, Lee Cook, Patti Fraticelli,  
Taelon Keller, Lisa Mischke,  
and Director Bobbi Nygaard*

## MEN'S MINISTRY MUSINGS

First of all, let me thank the many people who helped to make the 2009 Hunters Banquet a great success. So many people stepped up, even with the short planning time, and God helped us have the victory. It's amazing how easy it was with all the help.

### **Men's Ministry monthly breakfasts to begin:**

As we progress as a ministry, our first new “thing” is a monthly Men's Breakfast that will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Perkins Restaurant. Breakfast is on your own, it will be headed up by Suny Chef and it will be very, very informal. The first breakfast will take place Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30AM in the meeting room at Perkins Restaurant.

### **2010 Men's Retreat — Feb. 19-21**

And now for the most exciting news – our retreat this year is expanding to two nights and we are very excited to announce that Rich Ratts, from Convergence, our sister church in Missoula, will be our speaker! The retreat will begin late Friday afternoon and end on Sunday (not Sat. as in the past). There will be plenty of time for the usual frolic of our “outdoorsy” brothers but we will also have alternative activities for the not so “outdoorsy” guys.

Look for more details as the time approaches, which will be here before you know it. Again, I am looking forward to this time of spiritual renewal at Middle Thompson Lake. Fees for the retreat will be announced in the coming weeks in the bulletin.

*~Mike Crimmins*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year from Children's Ministries... welcome back! Please take note of the Awana theme nights coming up...

### SPARKS and T&T's:

- Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back – we missed you!
- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> Canned Food Drive – canned soup or fruit please  
Sparks and T & T Leaders meeting 5-6pm.
- Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> Parent Night –participate in some or all activities.
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>
- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Lots of Layers Night
- Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>
- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Candy Kiss Night
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Crazy Hair Night

### PUGGLES and CUBBIES:

- Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back – we missed you too!
- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> Bear Hug #12 – Canned Food Drive (soup or fruit)
- Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> Bear Hug #13 – Parent Night - come and participate  
in some or all activities.  
Leaders' Meeting 5-6PM
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Bear Hug #14
- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bear Hug #15 – Silly Sock Night
- Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Special Day #3 – Cubbie book pg. 104
- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Bear Hug #16 – Prince & Princess Night –  
dress like your favorite
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Bear Hug #17 – Crazy Hair Night

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS and HELPERS:

We will be having a meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, right after Sunday School at 10:30 in room #218.

~Sue Graham  
Director of Children's Ministries

## SUPER ADULT MINISTRY

The Super Adult Ministry is planned to appeal to the active, newly retired people of our church and to the special people in our lives who may or may not have a church connection.

You are invited Noon to 1:40 PM, on the first Friday of each month (except January) for inspiration, information, and a good time with friends.

Some of the upcoming special features will be **January 8**, Dr. Art Otto, Kalispell veterinarian and newspaper columnist for many years. He will talk about 'Caring for Your Pets in Winter'. Pastor Matthew Fitzwater will be the inspirational speaker, and his wife, Christy will bring the special music.

**February 5**, Glacier National Park will be featured in its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with awesome photos by Leah Leavitt. See Glacier's back country as avid hikers view God's creation. Inspirational speaker will be Pastor Job Dittmer. Violinists, Kristen and Amy Haymond, will play both classical and Gospel music.

We've really enjoyed the meals prepared by Symone Atondo, Lesli Frost and Kristin Bay.

~Peter Bergen

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (DEC. MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		SEEKING GOD THROUGH HIS WORD (DEC. MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		FINANCIAL REPORT (MONTH TO DATE AS OF 12/27/09)	
Easthaven Baptist Church	572	Sunday Morning Bible Study	82	YTD Budget Requirement	\$763,507
Kila Country Church, Kila	79	Nightlife (Discipleship studies)	369	YTD Receipts	\$726,140
Harvest Baptist Church, Kalispell	47	Assisted Living Bible Studies	47	Month to date budget requirement	\$60,054
Convergence Ministries, Missoula	46	<b>Total Average</b>	<b>498</b>	Month to date receipts	\$87,821

## KILA COUNTRY CHURCH

Thank you all for your support with the Coats Boots and Gloves ministry (CB&G). There are 45 children who are warmer this winter because of your faithful gifts and support. We have made some new friends from the CB&G program and are experiencing healthy growth pains from our involvement with this and other ministries to our community.

We were especially blessed to present The Great Late Potentate to a packed house of 85 people. Two weeks prior to the play we had 95 in attendance, and are averaging 65 weekly. That is up from 40 in July. It is exciting to finally see the hard work and answered prayers of so many faithful servants coming to fruit through positive and healthy growth here at Kila Country Church. We thank all of you who have partnered with God to help this come about.

We sincerely ask that you please continue to join with us in praying for our leadership needs here at Kila Country Church

*~Pastor Joel Stephens*

## HARVEST BAPTIST

Our equipping studies have continued to impact lives of various ages. Our youth study continues to grow in attendance including both students and parents. We are grateful for the parental support and involvement. Students are learning to forsake society's low expectations of teens and instead, pursue God's plans for their present lives. Our Wednesday night Job study and our elder's study have called us to trust God despite every circumstance in life because God is sovereign and He is trustworthy.

We went Christmas caroling to seven locations that blessed both the sixteen who went and all who we sang to.

We are praying for two of our youth who are seeking to serve overseas during 2010, Olivia Roskos in the Czech Republic and Trevor Barton in Japan.

*~Pastor Drew Buckner*



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