

# The Beacon

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight  
Proverbs 3:5-6*

I cannot think of a better scripture to sum up the past year at Eastridge Park. The Lord, in many ways, has reminded us as a congregation what it means to trust Him every day; to move past our own perceptions and desires and to submit to Him in everything we do.

2011 has not been without its challenges. But with every challenge comes new opportunities. This year, Eastridge Park has more than survived these challenges. In many ways we have thrived as a congregation, because of the Lord's enduring faithfulness to us.

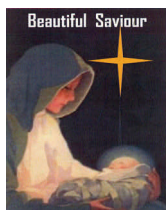
As your acting Senior Pastor, I boast in the goodness of God who shows His strength in our weakness, and to whom all Glory and honor and power is due. This year, with our church, the Lord has worked Globally, providing for the needs of missionaries and ministries. Locally we have impacted our community in many ways. Our youth helped Dallas Children's Advocacy Center to improve the lives of abused children in Dallas County by providing money to buy special equipment, and helping them organize their Christmas Closet. This project alone will affect the lives of up to 2000 children a year in Dallas County. Another Group of students provided basic needs to the homeless in our community, beyond that, they provided scriptural encouragement and Bibles for those who are homeless. And still another group provided after school tutoring for refugees who live in poverty. In addition they are currently working to provide these same refugees with shoes.

Beyond just the youth group, we continue to impact our community through other events. Think back to the Souper Bowl of Caring and the huge food drive we provided for Sharing Life. What about the Easter egg hunt, or Vacation Bible School, Park Fest, and the pool party? Those are events that we put on for our church, but also for the families in our community. This year we also did the Zumba food drive for the ladies here at our church. I could go on and on about many other accomplishments done by individuals in our congregation, but I will resist.

Internally we made many strides too. We have created shepherding groups for our eldership, in order to better meet the needs of the congregation. We updated the constitution, we made improvements to Sunday's order of worship, reformatted the fall festival, started a prayer group that meets weekly, fasted and prayed as a church, created a media ministry, refocused our evangelism ministry, created a connection card, improved our hospitality, provided updated training for our elders and deacons, hired a worship leader who is doing a wonderful job, we have baptized people, we have welcomed new members into our congregation, we have been intentional about improving in the areas of discipleship, and service at our church.

Our church is very much alive, and continues to be a light in the dark, though we have struggled. For that we can say that 2011 at EPCC by the grace of God, has been a tremendous success!

Sincerely,  
Rocky Hernandez



Unity Choir  
presents  
**BEAUTIFUL  
SAVIOUR**

in one service on  
Sunday, December 18  
10:50 AM  
String Quartet, organ and flute  
accompaniment.



*May the blessing of Joy abide within you.  
May the blessing of Peace rest upon you.  
May the blessing of Love flow through you.  
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours  
at Christmas and  
in the New Year.  
God bless you from  
the staff of Eastridge Park*

## **Memorials**

### **BUILDING FUND**

In memory of: **Ben Houchin**  
Given by: Dudley & Bobbie Perry

In memory of: **Charlie Owen**  
(father of Gayle Burris)  
Given by: Dudley & Bobbie Perry

In memory of: **Michelle Pemberton**  
Given by: Dorothy Richardson  
Kathy Richardson  
Gwen & Rick Worrell  
Carolyn Sinclair

In memory of: **Fred McGowan**  
Given by: Gayle Burris  
B.J. & Ann Smith  
Carolyn Sinclair  
Larry Ingram  
Discovery Sunday School Class  
Jack Tilley

## **Sunday Preaching Schedule**

December 18 - Christmas Musical -  
*Beautiful Saviour (one service)*

December 25 - Rocky Hernandez  
(one service)

January 1— Rochelle Smith

January 8—John Salas

January 15—Rocky Hernandez

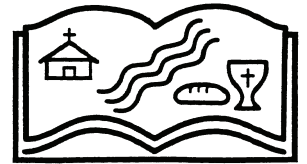
January 22 - Rocky Hernandez

January 29—Josiah Boyd

## **PREPARING YOUR HEART FOR EASTER**

Women's Bible Study to begin  
Monday, January 30

This is a 9 week study led by Eileen Houghland.  
Please call the church office to register; books  
(\$11.00) need to be ordered by January 15.



## **A DISCIPLE HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP**

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Rochelle Smith**  
Minister of  
Congregational Care/  
Fellowship

**Amy Zamarripa**  
Director of  
Children's Ministries

**Rocky Hernandez**  
Youth Minister

**Tom Porter**  
Minister of Music

**David Rodgers**  
Organist

**Carla Ruff**  
Church Secretary

**Betty Philley**  
Financial Secretary

**Eileen Houghland**  
Receptionist

**Tom Brown/  
Larry Aydelott**  
Maintenance

**Kym Salazar**  
Director, Eastridge  
School/Day Care

**Pat Moss**  
Wedding Hostess

**Norma Elam**  
Nursery Coordinator

**BIBLE TRIVIA (Do you know?)** What Bible character had no father nor mother, was not born and did not die? Hebrews 7:1-3

## **SUNDAY NIGHTS AT EASTRIDGE**

**Begins again on January 15 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Classes offered for 8 weeks; they include:**

### **DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY OF HANDLING MONEY** Leader - Edith Smith, CPA

Did you know that the Bible is a blueprint for managing your finances? There are more than 2,350 verses that address everything you need to know about handling money. This eight week workshop guides you through practical exercises regarding God's way of handling debt, savings, counsel, honesty, giving, work and teaching children about handling money. You will learn about the profound impact that managing money has on your relationship with God. Course workbook will be provided. Class will meet upstairs in DFC.

### **THE WAY OF THE MASTER**— Antonio Herrera, Facilitator

This eight week basic training course is specially formatted to train believers to simply and confidently share the gospel with family, friends and strangers. This course will teach you to overcome your fears by using a proven, powerfully effective way to make the gospel make sense. Session titles include: *Cultivating Compassion for the Lost; Discovering Hell's Best Kept Secret, Learning to Overcome Fear, Practicing What You Preach, Crafting the Message, Answering the Top Ten Questions; Exposing the Myth of the Modern Message; Spreading Your Wings.* Class will meet upstairs in DFC, youth classroom #2

### **HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE** Leader -Ron Smith

A continuing history of the transformation of the Bible from stone tablets and leather / papyrus manuscripts written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek to its present form of 66 books translated into more than 1,000 languages and 30+ versions, including how the Bible went from being available only to Priests / Clergy to being available to everyone. Class will meet in the Fellowship Sunday School classroom.

## EASTRIDGE AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Your World Outreach dollars have been used to start a brand new church in the Santiago, Chile area of South America. There was no witness for the Gospel in this area before and now there are converts, Bible studies, the preaching of the Word and a worshipping body of believers. Thanks for helping to make possible this outpost of light in an area of great need.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** This year's Christmas offering will once again assist two ministries in need. One half will go to Faith Ministries in Mexico with whom we have been in partnership for years. We aim to help in their work with children. The second half will be used to provide critical, basic needs for a small group of Rwandan refugees here in north Dallas. We have personal contact here too, so we can make sure the funds are used as intended. Please use the envelopes in the pew racks, or write "Christmas Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thanks so much for your generous involvement.

### SENIOR ADULT TRIP TO FREDERICKSBURG

with Rochelle Smith

Thursday, May 3—Saturday, May 5, 2012

Registration / information can be picked up in the church office.

\$375—Double/triple, \$465—Single

\$50 deposit to hold your space; final payment due April 1. Make checks payable to TWLL (Traveling with Linda Lee)

### CREEK CROSSING COMMITMENT

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans. The Lord works out everything to its proper end...*

*Proverbs 16:3-4a*

Please join the Elders, members of the General Board, and Prayer Circle for a short service of commitment at the Creek Crossing property site as we look forward in faith seeking God's blessing and hand in the sale of that property. Our prayer is that He will send a godly buyer and will be glorified by our faith request. When the sale occurs, we pray for His continued guidance in the use of the net proceeds (after the 10% tithe).

This is an opportunity for this body of believers, Eastridge Park Christian Church, to grow our faith by humbly coming together as a congregation to petition our heavenly Father for His hand in the sale of this land. We hope you will make plans to join us for this very special time in the life of our church.

**When: Sunday, December 18, 2011**

**Time: 12:45 P.M.**

**Where: 2400 Newsom Rd, in Creek Crossing Area, Mesquite, TX**

**Church vans will be provided**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*Philippians 4:4-6*



### Donut pick-up and Delivery!

Help needed! If you are a Sunday morning "Early Bird" I could use your help. I am looking for volunteers to help pick-up donuts on Sunday morning and be able to deliver them to the church. If you would like to help continue our new tradition of Sunday morning donuts, please call me. I would love to have your help!

Blessings, Rochelle

### Stewardship Sense

**Giving is worship, just as praying or singing a hymn. Our giving is a reflexive response to God's Grace. It comes from the transforming work of Christ in us.**

*Acts 10:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."



### Devotional Reading Plan

#### SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER

Listed on the back of each Sunday's bulletin are scriptures to "read" and scriptures to "memorize" during the next week. For those who have missed receiving the scripture assignments each week, they are listed below for the month of December for your benefit:

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Memorize: 1 John 1:8-9

Read: Acts 3:1—7:43

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Memorize: Psalm 23:1-2

Read: Acts: 7:44 - 10:33

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Memorize: Psalm 23:3-4

Read: Acts 10:34—12:24

#### SUNDAY, December 25

Memorize: Psalm 23:5-6

Read: Exodus 1 - 11

## Called To Serve ...

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 (one service)

**Elders** Mary Ann Shupe & Wayne Knowles  
**Preparation** Nell Mason, Tom Simes, John Guest  
**Money Counters** Guy & Barbara Hargrave, John Killian & Chad Hargrave

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011 (one service)

**Elders** Bill Swanson & Carroll Swanson  
**Preparation** Howard & Lori McGinnis, Renea Elliott  
**Money Counters** Dudley & Bobbie Perry / Dick & Edith Morgan

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 (one service)

**Elders** Carroll Swanson & Bill Swanson  
**Preparation** Barbara & Jack Van Vessem, Merle Kline  
**Money Counters** Ron & Edith Smith

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

**Elders** Karen Nix & Charles Nix  
**Preparation** Chace Butcher, Zach Cooper, Lindsay Mason  
**Money Counters** Ken & Linda Whaley  
**Communion to Shut-Ins:** - Edith Smith & Joan Martinez; Bill Swanson & Brad Eames; Carroll Swanson & Barbara Van Vessem; Gail McAda & Jack Van Vessem

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

**Elders** Charles Nix & Karen Nix  
**Preparation** Linda Slejko, Brenda Johnson, Debbie Teel  
**Money Counters** Larry & Kathy Patton

### THE EASTRIDGE PARK REPORT

	SS Attendance	Worship
December 4	135	234
December 11	140	279

**Christian sympathy** is expressed to the family of Fred McGowan in their loss; and to Jan Fowler and Pat Bonner in the loss of their mother, Jean Reed.

**Congratulations to** Joyce Johnson on the birth of a great-grandson, Declan Lane Calhoun, and to the parents, Brandon and Brenda Calhoun.

### CHANGE IN BEACON PUBLICATION

Beginning in January 2012, THE BEACON will be published once a month. If you have something that needs to be printed in the BEACON, the deadline to receive information / articles will be on the 10th of each month.

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