

Come celebrate
Family Activity Time
Tuesday, February 21
 (also known as)
FAT TUESDAY

Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is also known as Mardi Gras Day or Shrove Day. It is a day when people eat all they want of anything they like as the following day is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a long fasting period for Christians. In addition to fasting, Christians also give up something special that they enjoy. So, Fat Tuesday is a celebration and the opportunity to enjoy that favorite food or snack that you may give up for the long Lenten season.

Eastridge Park will be celebrating FAT Tuesday on February 21. There will be activities for the entire family to enjoy and participate in, along with a delicious pancake dinner! It all FREE and begins at 6:30 PM in the DFC dining hall.

Ash
 Wednesday
 Worship
 FEBRUARY 22
 7:00 PM
 Sanctuary

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to all who have asked about the progress of our committee. Your interest and your prayers are very important to us. At this point, we can tell you that we are very close to making our decision. In the next few weeks we will be completing our task. Keep praying that God's will be done.

- David Seitzler, Chairman

*“Faith, Perseverance,
 Character and Hope”*

What are these things - faith, perseverance, character, and hope? These intangible objects, unable to be touched or grasped; having no physical presence? They are incapable of being conceived by the senses; incapable of being realized or completely defined.

Faith, simply defined is a *belief* or *trust*. But, what is Spiritual Faith? Spiritual faith is the belief in the existence of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and salvation that is received through Jesus Christ, a complete trust and reliance on Him alone for all that salvation means. And, a simpler yet more profound definition is found in Hebrews 11:1, *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”*.

So, what is perseverance? Perseverance is patience, persistence, steadfastness; it means to attend constantly, and to continue unswervingly. And perseverance is achieved through challenges, tribulations, and difficult times. God does not promise us that we will not suffer or experience challenging times, but what He does promise is that because of our faith, we will persevere and that steadfast determination will result in God's glory.

The dictionary describes character as the complex of mental and ethical traits marking a person. It is the accumulation of thoughts, values, words and actions that become the habits that determine our destiny. A person of good character thinks right and does right according to the core universal values that define the qualities of a good person: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, honor, honesty, caring and citizenship. But, is there a biblical definition of character? Yes, yes there is. The Bible defines character as any behavior or activity that reflects the character of God. Christian character is also defined as exhibiting the “Fruit of the Spirit”; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Difficult circumstances, challenging times, trials and tribulations develops perseverance, perseverance builds character and because we have faith, we have hope! We have hope in the promises of God, that through Jesus Christ we will someday share in the glory of our heavenly Father and be granted entrance into His mighty Kingdom where we will spend eternity in His presence. And because we have hope in that promise, the promise of everlasting life...we have hope for tomorrow. There is hope! There is always hope. Hope in Jesus Christ gives us hope for tomorrow, and tomorrow is another day filled with opportunity for us to choose. An opportunity to choose Jesus Christ as our Savior, and another opportunity to live our lives in a manner that reflects the character of God.

Our church in the last months has experienced challenges, but we have persevered. We have developed through that perseverance a character that I believe reflects God, and because of our faithfulness, we too, as a church body, have hope. We have hope for today, we have hope for tomorrow and we have hope for a new year living in Christ!

Blessings,
 Rochelle

Memorials **BUILDING FUND**

In memory of: **Michelle Pemberton**
Given by: Boyd & Karen London

In memory of: **Fred McGowan**
Given by: Jack Tilley
George Boyce

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of: **Ruth Russell**
Given by: Bill & Carroll Swanson

BIBLE TRIVIA (Do you know?) Why did the LORD regret that he had made human beings on the earth? Genesis 6:5-8

SUNDAY NIGHTS **AT EASTRIDGE**

January 15-March 4

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Classes offered for 8 weeks include:

DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY OF HANDLING MONEY Leader - Edith Smith, CPA; class will meet upstairs in DFC.

THE WAY OF THE MASTER- Antonio Hernandez Facilitator; class will meet upstairs in DFC, youth classroom #4

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE Leader -Ron Smith; class will meet in the Fellowship Sunday School classroom.

Programming for youth (gr. 7-12) and Children (gr. K-6) are also offered during this time.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP is sponsoring an "out to eat and shop day" on Tuesday, January 31. They will go to downtown Garland for lunch at **MAIN STREET CAFÉ / TEA ROOM**, then visit the shops on the square. Meet at the church at 10:15 AM. Cost is \$2.00 plus money for lunch. Call the church office to sign-up 972-279-7201.

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!



SENIOR ADULT TRIP **TO FREDERICKSBURG**

with Rochelle Smith

Thursday, May 3—Saturday, May 5

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)

Adventureland . . .

"Agents on a Mission"

Grades K - 6th

Sunday Nights, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
DFC

This 8 week discipleship series explores two topics "How to know the Truth" and "How do I share my faith?" Children will enjoy learning through games, snacks, and hands-on activities. Want to help train up the next generation of Christ followers? **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE!**

Contact amy@eastridgepark.com



Begins Sunday, April 8th from 10:50 AM - 12:00 PM in the Youth Room. Fun and interactive children's church for children in grades K- 6th. There will be praise and worship, bible lessons, games, crafts and activities. Want to be a part of something exciting at EPCC? **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE!** Contact amy@eastridgepark.com



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

Sponsor A Calvary's Kid for only \$40 a month (\$1.34 a day). Indian Christian Fellowship in the Andaman Islands, India provides a home for 72 children that we at Eastridge Park have the opportunity to share our many blessings with. For more information on becoming a sponsor of one of these children, contact Wanda or Don Fisher at 972-686-8655 or wanda.fisher@mercer.com.

Thank You

Thank you for all the cards and prayers at the time of our loss. Also, thank you for the delicious meal after the funeral. A special thank you to the Discovery Sunday School class for their concern and prayers during Fred's illness.

- Family of Fred McGowan

I would like to thank all of my Christian friends for the cards, phone calls and especially for their prayers while in the hospital. I appreciate your love and support. It was much needed.

- Dottie Wells

I would like to thank my church family for all of the prayers, phone calls, and cards during my recent surgery. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. God bless, Rod Vike

Epcc Rewind . . .

Reports on events at Eastridge

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

On a raw and blustery Sunday afternoon in December, a group of 35 members of the congregation gathered on the Creek Crossing property for a simple service of commitment and prayer seeking God's blessing and hand in the sale of that property.

As Rocky spoke, he reminded us of the Old Testament story found in 1 Samuel when the people confessed their sins, prayed to God, and "the LORD thundered" and delivered Israel from the Philistines. After the battle, Samuel took a stone and set it up and called its name Ebenezer. Ebenezer - stone of help. A memorial stone erected to remind the people of God's help in their time of need.

In the book of Joshua we read of another time memorial stones were laid down. At the Lord's direction, the priests carried the ark of the covenant into the flooding waters of the Jordan river and the entire nation of Israel passed over on dry land. Afterwards, 12 stones representing the 12 tribes were placed as a memorial..." When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever" (Joshua 4:6-7). Stones of remembrance... remember what the LORD your God has done for you in the past and have faith that He will help you in the future.

As we gathered in a circle to pray, we each received a stone of remembrance and faith. Remember what the LORD our God has done for Eastridge Park in the past, remember our time here together praying that He will send us a godly buyer in His good time, remember the promises of persistent and consistent prayer and pray for its sale, and *in faith* look forward to the sale of this property while acknowledging it is by His doing to His glory. When the property has sold, by the grace of God, we will collect the stones that were handed out and fashion our own Ebenezer so that when the children ask in time to come, "What do those stones mean to you?", we can tell them the story of the Creek Crossing Commitment and the buyer that God provided.

Please join us in prayer as a church body for the sale of this land. When the sale occurs, we also pray for His continued guidance in the use of the proceeds (after the 10% tithe). If you would like a stone, just ask Rocky, he'll be glad to pray with you and provide you with one.



Stewardship Sense

Why God Says So Much About Money: Part 1, Spiritual Reasons:

How we handle money has a significant impact on the intimacy of our relationship with Christ :

Luke 16:11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?



Money is a primary competitor with Christ for the lordship of our life:

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

From The Stewardship Ministry Team

Devotional Reading Plan

SCRIPTURES FOR JANUARY

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 January for your benefit:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Memorize: Romans 10:13-15

Read: Exodus 17—20

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Memorize: Isaiah 40:8

Read: Exodus 12:1-16:36

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Memorize: Psalm 16:11

Read: Acts 12:25—14:28

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Memorize: Romans 15:1—2

Read: Acts 15:1-17:34

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Memorize: Psalm 103:1-4

Read: Acts 13:1-17, 18:18-21:16

Called To Serve ...

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012

Elders Lilly Slay & Mancel Kirkpatrick
Preparation Tracy Tompkins, Antonio & Lorena Hernandez
Money Counters B. J. Smith / Rod & Joy Vike

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

Elders Mancel Kirkpatrick & Lilly Slay
Preparation Dennis & Esta Anne Hart
Money Counters Don & Wanda Fisher

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Elders Wayne Knowles & Deborah Carnahan
Preparation Phil & Beverly Ferrell, Merle Kline
Money Counters Guy & Barbara Hargrave, John Killian, Chad Hargrave

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Elders Deborah Carnahan & Wayne Knowles
Preparation Peggy Henderson, Tula Acree, Ken Brown
Money Counters Dudley & Bobbie Perry / Dick & Edith Morgan

THE EASTRIDGE PARK REPORT

	SS Attendance	Worship
January 8	131	252
January 15	143	279

Christian sympathy is expressed to Dick Morgan in the loss of his brother, John Morgan; to Janie Bahm in the loss of her mother, Jewel Nita Calloway; to Rudy Martinez in the loss of his mother, Elidia Martinez; and to Pat Parker Newberry, Amy Nettles and Becky O'Dell in the loss of their brother in law and uncle, Doyle White.

Congratulations to Herb and Tula Acree on the birth of a granddaughter, Brylee Ann, and to the parents, Bryan and Brettney Acree.

BEACON PUBLICATION - THE BEACON is published **once a month**. If you have something that needs to be printed in the BEACON, the deadline to receive information / articles is the **10th** of each month.

The Beacon

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