

The “Good News” Paper

E A S T M A I N
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

P A S T O R ’ S P O N D E R I N G S

“If Christianity is true, then it cannot be simply a file drawer in our crowded lives. It must be the central truth from which all our behavior, relationships, and philosophy flow.”

From Against the Night
by Charles Colson

While looking through an old journal I rediscovered this statement that a dear member of the first church I served in rural northwest Ohio had made to me in 1992: “We like you Bill, but when the time comes for you to move on some of us are going to breathe a sigh of relief!” What he meant was that I presented the Christian faith in a way that made following Jesus seem like something radical. In reflecting on his words in that journal, I wrote, “A charge to which I hope I really can plead guilty.”

If it really is true that God loves you and me so much that he sent Jesus into this world to live, die, rise again, and ascend to reconcile us to God, then this has radical implications for the ways we think and order our time, energy, and resources. Many truths are not like this: that I ate a burrito for breakfast this morning doesn’t have radical implications for my life. But other truths, like that I am married to Amy, impact nearly every aspect of my life in profound ways.

I was 28 years old when Herb said that to me; today at 52 the number of people who would call me “radical” is probably fewer. While I’ve been greatly blessed in the intervening years with experiences that have humbled me and given me a deeper appreciation of God’s majesty and

grace, I’m haunted by the thought that my passion for Jesus and capacity to follow him in ways that seem radical to others may have diminished. It’s easy to forget or take for granted the most important truths about God, life, and our personal situations. Would you pray for me about this? And for our congregation as a whole – and maybe even for yourself? I’ll be doing so. Let’s not settle for a church that aims simply to make the “churchy” file drawer of our crowded lives a little better organized or more enjoyable. Let’s rather be about supporting one another to increasingly conform our lives to the marvelous truths we profess about the love God has shown to us in Jesus.

In Jesus’ Love,
Bill

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E A S T M A I N
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A N D Y ' S U P D A T E S - Y O U N G A D U L T S

A few random musings:

I was at a conference full of really good content recently and came away with 2 questions that our church—called to be a light in this community—should be asking:

1.) Who are our (East Main Church's) natural enemies in this community? How can we love them?

2.) What are we doing to create goodwill in our community? What else could/should we be doing?

A few upcoming events at East Main that I'm really excited about and would love to you join us for...

1) Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services

*Time: both are at 7:00 p.m.

*Place: both are in the sanctuary

*Come and worship the King together

2) "Together" Relationship Builder

Date: Sunday, April 10

Time: 4:00 -7:45 p.m.

Place: EM Fellowship Hall

*For anyone married, engaged, dating, or courting

Cost: \$15/couple (includes participant guide, dinner, and babysitting, if needed)
Challenging and encouraging teaching from Matt Chandler geared towards growing your relationship with your significant other.
RSVP to Andy at eastmainyoungadults@gmail.com by Sunday, April 3. *This IS NOT just for young couples!*

3) The Church Has Left the Building 4.0

Date: Sunday, May 1

We are on lookout for ways to serve! Email Andy with suggestions/ideas/people.

4) The Church Has Left the Building Mission Trip

Date: Friday, July 8-Sunday, July 10

Cost: \$25/day or \$50 total (individual) or \$75 family maximum.

You can come for 1 day, 2 days or all 3 based on your schedule.

This is a local trip so you'll stay overnight at your home. Kids are welcome!

Email Andy for more details as they become available
Let's reach out to and bless our community together!

Love in Christ,
Andy

L E N T E N
O F F E R I N G

Fana Kale Heywot Church is in Wolayita Soddo, Ethiopia. The name of the church means "Thy Word is the light of life". It is the home church where Tensai and Bereket Hoffman are originally from in Ethiopia. This area of Ethiopia is experiencing a second season of extreme drought. Heywot church is raising funds to buy a commercial bread machine or other entrepreneurial project to help provide jobs for the unemployed and bread for people to buy.

By supporting this Life Bread Program, East Main has the wonderful opportunity to help shine the Light in a corner of the Muslim world and to encourage the Christians while at the same time reaching out to our extended church family. Together, we can help these fellow believers share not only physical food, but spiritual food.



M E L I S S A ' S M U S I N G S / / 3 0 H O U R
F A M I N E R E C A P A N D U P D A T E

There's a Franciscan blessing that ends with these words: *"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done."* (See full blessing on next page.)

It captures one of the aspects of working with youth that I love: their energy and enthusiasm to make a difference in the world. Rather than focusing all of the reasons why something might be impossible, youth are more willing to commit to possibilities, and they encourage this energy in one another.

And what a blessing this Godly "foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:25) of our students was the weekend of February 27 – 28!



During that weekend, 23 junior and senior high school students, along with 10 college and adult leaders participated in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine. This is a national event that gives students a chance to do something about the terrible fact that in a world with more than enough food to feed everyone, nearly 8,000* children die of hunger and

hunger-related diseases EVERY DAY. They could have heard that information that thought, "There's just a small group of us. What difference could we possibly make?" But, they didn't. Rather, they committed themselves, in faith, to possibilities.

They committed themselves to raising \$8,000.00 (!!!) to help save lives and then spent the weekend together serving at the World Vision Distribution Warehouse in Pittsburgh, a Lawrence County Habitat for Humanity home in New Castle, and the Grove City Community Food Pantry; learning about poverty and the ways it impacts all aspects of life through simulations, games, activities, learning how people of faith are called to respond to the problem of poverty through Bible studies and discussions; playing, praying, worshipping, and growing together – all while FASTING so that they could get a taste of hunger and grow an appetite for faith-based transformation!

Through these faith-based efforts I'm humbled and excited to share with you that our group – so far – has raised OVER \$10,800.00! This money will help save the lives of 25 children this year! What an encouraging privilege to support possibilities for these 25 children! And what a gift to see they ways that being a

part of this experience has grown faith in God who makes GOOD THINGS POSSIBLE in our students and leaders!

It was a Life-Changing-Life-Saving weekend for our group! Thank you to everyone who supported us with contributions and prayer and words of encouragement!

Peace,
Melissa

* Another component of our 30 Hour Famine this year was our EVERY ONE COUNTS project: an 8,000 link paper chain. Each link was made by students and families in our youth ministry. This project was a meaningful and tangible way to get our heads and hearts around the number 8000. We didn't want that number to just be a statistic; we wanted a way to remember that each link is a life of a child that God loves; and we wanted a way to represent our commitment to raise \$8000 to help each of them – because EVERY ONE COUNTS! The paper chain was hung through the sanctuary, Welcome Center, and Fellowship Hall during that weekend. We hope that those of you who were able to worship with us that weekend found it to be a moving and motivating visual for prayerfully exploring the possibilities God may be calling you to invest in in the months to come!

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H
E A S T M A I N

A F R A N C I S C A N B L E S S I N G



"The greatest thing you can have in life is an opportunity."

– Jose Voh Njenga, Teacher with eduKenya

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with a restless **discomfort** about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy **anger** at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

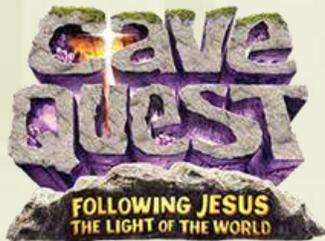
May God bless you with the gift of **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough **foolishness** to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

E A S T M A I N
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

C H I L D R E N ' S M I N I S T R Y
A M Y B I D D L E

F I N A N C I A L S



Save the date!
VBS is June 20-24
from 9:00-Noon.

Registration forms will be available (beginning in May) in the Welcome Center and on East Main's Website, www.eastmainpc.org

VBS Volunteers Needed:

- 1.) To help with Decorations.
- 2.) To staff the following areas: Recreation, Music, Preschool, Kid Vid, and Leaders for grades 5 and 6.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas of need, please sign up at the Kid's table in the Welcome Center or email Amy Biddle at abiddle@eastmainpc.org.

Summer Church Camp:

If your student is interested in going to a church camp in the summer please fill out a Camp Scholarship form that is located in the Welcome Center. All students from East Main Church that fill out a Camp Scholarship form will receive

\$100.00 toward a week long camp and \$25.00 toward a day camp. For questions please contact Amy Biddle at abiddle@eastmainpc.org.

Attention Parents: Please stop by the Children's Table in the Welcome Center. There are resources for Lent and Easter for families.

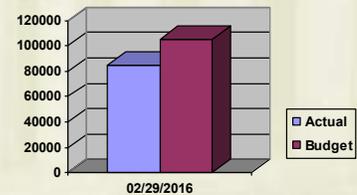
Childcare is available for the Maundy Thursday worship service for children birth through age 4.

Kid's Gym at East Main meets this Monday!

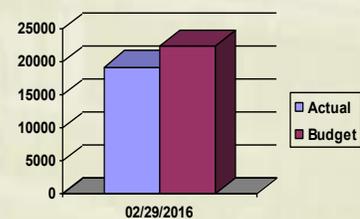
Any child is welcome to come; however, parents/guardians **MUST** stay with their child/children throughout the entire time. Families may bring their own snack or lunch if desired. Toys/equipment will be provided, but families may bring their own as well. Kid's Gym runs from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on April 4. For more information, call Amy Biddle at East Main Presbyterian Church: 724-458-8270.

Hope to see you there!

Operating Income
Actual \$84,420
Budget \$105,220



Mission Income
Actual \$19,841
Budget \$22,371



Electronic Giving Consider scheduling a recurring contribution today. It's very convenient. You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. Please go to our website, www.eastmainpc.org to sign up today!

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Women's Craft Night!!!

Ladies of all ages (yes, bring daughters & granddaughters) are invited to a Craft Night on Thursday, March 31st!

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn, relearn, teach, or just participate in knitting, crocheting, and/or sewing the blanket stitch while enjoying refreshments & fellowship.

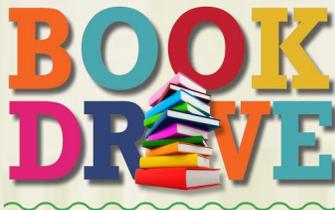
Projects will be provided or you can bring one that you have already started. Registration will be on March 13 & 20 in the Welcome Center between the Worship services. Or contact Tracy Jackson at 724-372-6566/

mtojackon@gmail.com or Diana King at 724-450-0914/
diana.king219@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!!!!

Mother, Daughter, Friend Potluck Dinner

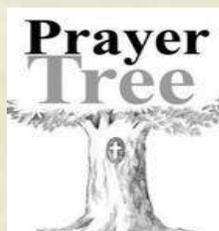
will be on Monday, May 2 at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. Beverage, dessert & table service will be provided. Be entertained by our own Sue Garton playing Hand Bells. Sign up in the Welcome Center Sunday, April 17, 24, or May 1 or call the church office. Adults \$1.00, children are free.



The Grove City United Way is having a Book Drive. The books will be going to children in need in the Grove City Area School District.

They are asking for new or gently used books for Kindergarten through High School level students. Donated books can either be dropped off in the Welcome Center or taken to the United Way office at 119 South Broad Street.

Thank you!

**EAST MAIN E-MAIL OR PHONE PRAYER TREES**

The Prayer Tree is a vital ministry of our church. If you would like to be a Prayer partner or to **INITIATE A PRAYER REQUEST**, please call or e-mail Eleanore Gregg, 724-458-6143, or emgregg@verizon.net or, LouAnn Bestwick, 724-458-5583, or the church office during business hours at 724-458-8270. or eastmain@zoominternet.net

The Choir would like to invite anyone interested, to join us on Easter Sunday, March 27 (at the 9:00 Service) in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus". If you have participated in singing this in the past, or if you have never done this piece before...we would love to have you join us!! There will be one practice Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to rehearse and prepare (the Wednesday before Easter). You may bring your own copy of music, if you have one, or we will provide a copy for you. On Easter Sunday, we will sing this piece as the Offering, and then leave the choir loft so that all can sit with family/friends. If interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Dani Shidemantle, or any choir member! Hope to see many new faces, and fill the choir loft!!



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.EASTMAINPC.ORG



**EAST MAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

120 East Main Street
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone: 724-458-8270
Email: eastmain@zoominternet.net

Growing in Christ Inside-Out

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Dr. William Hoffman
pastorbill@zoominternet.net

Visitation Pastor:
Rev. Tom Funka
funkatng@aol.com

Young Adult Pastor:
Andy Bishop
emyoungadults@yahoo.com

Youth Pastor:
Melissa Danielson
eastmaingcyouth@gmail.com

Children's Ministries:
Amy Biddle
abiddle@eastmainpc.org

Church Office:
Janal Crissman
eastmain@zoominternet.net

Financial Controller:
Stacey Foster
sfoster@zoominternet.net

U P C O M I N G W O R S H I P S E R V I C E S

“Praise the Lord, O my soul.” –
Psalm 103:1

Holy Week Worship Opportunities:

Palm Sunday, March 20: children processing with Palms & singing!

Maundy Thursday, March 24: 7:00 p.m. Communion Service

Good Friday, March 25: noon- 1:00 p.m. Community Worship in GCC's Chapel
7:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship Service at East Main

Easter Sunday, March 27:
The Lord is Risen!
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00
Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Mornings after Easter:
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00
Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

April 3: Jesus is still risen!

April 10: Pastor Bill's message series on Philippians continues; moments for mission regarding InterVarsity's Urbana Missions Conference

April 17: Confirmation Class publicly professes faith. Pastor Bill preaching.

April 24: New adult covenant partners (members) received.

May 1: Conclusion of Philippians series.

May 8: Mother's Day!

May 15: May flowers: are they here yet?

May 22: “Thus Saith the Lord”

May 29: 1 Service at 10:00 with fellowship meal afterward.

June 5: Recognition of graduating high school seniors.

CD's of Sunday sermons preached at East Main are available through the church office. You can also listen to sermons on the our website: eastmainpc.org and following the links.