



P.O. BOX 882
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EASTHAVEN BAPTIST
Following Jesus. Growing Together.

Aug / Sept
2019

Of all the points of discussion among church leaders in America, one currently tops the list: declining attendance among members. Books and articles explore the various reasons and potential solutions, podcast hosts ask leading experts on church growth about the most-recent statistics and conferences, research firms as well as denominational teams attempt to discover what the future might hold for churches across the nation. This is not an isolated occurrence; it is being felt in the largest of metropolitan churches as well as smaller, rural congregations, and the trend is happening across denominational lines. People attend church less frequently than ever before.

The temptation is to single out one factor and claim that it is the sole reason for the decline, but leading research shows that the problem has multiple roots. People are much busier and are presented with many more options for spending their time. Families travel more and tend to take weekends to enjoy leisure activities. Members do not see a deep, spiritual need for regularly attending church services because they feel that a “monthly dose” is enough. Still others show up only when they have no competing activities on the weekend’s schedule. Over my years of ministry, when this topic comes up, I cannot tell you the number of times I have heard the same words, “We are all very busy during the week, so Sundays are for me and my family.”

Though the specific reasons for the decline are many, I do believe that there is at least one overarching theme: we have an identity problem. As followers of Christ, church is not a place we go; church is who we are. The church is the body of Christ, not a building. Sunday services are not about “having church,” but are opportunities for the church, the people who know Christ, to gather together to worship and bring glory to the one, true God, be built up in our maturity and understanding and then go into the world and make disciples (Ephesians 1:12, 4:12-13; Matthew 28:19).

We can forget easily, in a world that values individualism, customizable options and personal preferences, that to live for Christ is to live in the context of his body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). When we miss the fact that we are connected to each other in Christ, we can also begin to forget the true identity and unchanging character of the One we have the honor of worshipping.

The author and speaker Francis Chan expressed this potential neglect well when he said, “I’ll confess that a lot of times I don’t act like Jesus is the head of the church and that I’m just an arm. The arm doesn’t do anything unless the head tells it to. I don’t really humble myself and say, ‘Lord, you’re the head of the church. What do you want me to do?’ When we let God be the head and realize exactly who we are, that’s when things really happen...I’m talking about the miracle of true rebirth: where the Spirit enters someone, and you don’t have to force them to get rid of sin in their life. You don’t have to beg them to get along with the Lord. Their spirit is crying out, ‘Abba Father.’”

As we begin a new church year, would you ask yourself if who you are in Christ shows that all believers are joined together in his body under his leadership?

The church is who we are. The church is Christ’s body. The church always gathers.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
- Hebrews 10:24-25

Pastor Dustin

Sunday
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Prayer Time / Bible Study /
Small Groups

Wednesday
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6:15 p.m. Midweek Bible Study
Children’s Ministry, The Studio
Student Ministry, The Hub
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

Church Office Hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday -Thursday
8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Friday

601.833.2597
www.easthaven.net
Easthaven Baptist Church
ebc_brookhaven

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, August 7	Midweek schedule resumes
Sunday, August 11	Small Group Kick-off & Sign-up Church-wide Fish Fry, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 15	Senior Adult Fellowship, 5:30 p.m.
August 16-17	Children’s Back-To-School Party / Lock-In
Tuesday, August 20	Women’s Ministry, 6:00 p.m. in The Hub
Sunday, September 8	Small Groups begin
Tuesday, September 17	Women’s Ministry, 6:00 p.m. in The Hub
Thursday, September 19	Senior Adult Fellowship, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 25	See You At The Pole Rally at EBC
Sunday, September 29	Missions Report & Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.

CHURCH-WIDE FISH FRY : SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 5:00 P.M.

FISH & SIDES PROVIDED. BRING HOMEMADE ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT!
SIGN UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL OR AT THE WELCOME DESK

CONNECTING & SERVING MINISTRY

JOIN THE TEAM

SMALL GROUP KICK-OFF : AUGUST 11

SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN JOIN A SMALL GROUP

New Members Class

August 25 and September 29
9:15 a.m. in The Fireside Room

This is for those who have recently joined or anyone who is considering joining. Contact Sonya Foster for more info.

“OVERCOMER” - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 IN PEARL
COST IS \$10. SIGN UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. DEADLINE IS AUGUST 14

KIDZHAVEN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**SUNDAY MORNINGS
IN ELEVATE
FOR K4-4TH GRADE**

Join Felicia Gutters in the dojo as she practices the right moves of discipline, self-respect, confidence, respect, endurance, integrity, loyalty, and leadership.

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY : K4 - 2nd GRADE
Friday, August 16 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 + a school supply

2019 Lock-In : 3rd - 6th GRADE
August 16-17 from 8 p.m. - 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 + a school supply

Text @kidzebc to 81010 to receive text announcements for the Children's Ministry
Be sure to pick up a Kidzhaven Newsletter at the check-in desks!

STUDENT MINISTRY

One Night Of Worship
Wednesday, August 7
6:30 p.m. at FBC



Starting August 4 on Sunday Mornings

The Chase
Pursuing Holiness in
Your Everyday Life

Sunday Nights at 5:00 p.m.
Begins August 18

See You At The Pole : September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Easthaven

Missions Ministry

“WHERE IN THE WORLD DID WE GO?” MISSIONS FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, September 29th at 5:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite fellowship food. Beverages provided

Hear inspiring reports from The SEA Team, The Smoky Mountain Outreach Team and The Cleveland World Changers Team. Plus, hear info about upcoming opportunities for 2019-2020.

Senior Adult Ministry

Sunday, September 8 at 8:54 a.m. - Sunday Morning Gathering

hosted by the Judy Ballard / Bill McGehee classes

THURSDAY NIGHT SENIOR ADULTS

August 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Chicken Strips, Sides, & Dessert

Special Guests from
The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville

September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Fish, Hushpuppies, Potato Salad, Coleslaw,
& Dessert

Special Guests : Johnston Grass Bluegrass Band



Bible Study & Fellowship

August 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Hub. Join us as we hear from the heart of our pastor's wife, Rebecca George. Bring your favorite finger food

September 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Hub. “Jesus is our Rock!” Join us to paint rocks of encouragement for ministry. Bring your favorite finger food

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES IN AUG / SEPT

Dustin George – Senior Pastor – 4 Years

Darlene Lyons – Food Services – 3 years

Rhonda Smith – Nursery Coordinator – 7 Years

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

2018-2019 Fifty-one Week Report

Needs: \$785,400 Receipts: \$721,660

Expenditures: \$685,934

Closing Balance, July 27, 2019 - \$45,726