



P.O. BOX 882
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www.easthaven.net

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EASTHAVEN BAPTIST
Following Jesus. Growing Together.

February / March
2020

Ezekiel 14:2-3 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity..."

The idols of our hearts are often difficult to identify and hard to dethrone. We hold our idols close and mistakenly give them validity as they creep into more and more areas. We search for Bible verses to back our notions while ignoring the context or passages to the contrary. Soon, the idols seem to be a part of us. When our hearts intertwine with our idols, an attack on idolatry feels like an attack upon our lives.

At times in my own life, I fall victim to the idols of preference and expectation. Though to explain fully how those two idols have influenced my life at times would fill volumes, perhaps a story will help illustrate the struggle.

A few years ago, as I served in a ministry geared toward adults, I was approached about working with students. Though I wrestled with the decision, I finally stepped into the role with a bit of reluctance and a large amount of uncertainty. At the first worship time, I sensed my idols being rocked. I made mental notes as I critiqued the elements. The music was too loud. The room was too dark. The spotlights were too bright. The haze machine was unnecessary.

As I led the Bible study, I saw that my normal, adult-oriented approach just did not work with the students. I began to think about how to tailor the sermons for their understanding and stage of spiritual growth all the while grumbling inside at the different stylistic elements. My traditional mindset had to be the right way to worship, right?

About a month into the ministry, as I stood and watched the students worship, I sensed God speaking to my heart, "You value your preferences more than the soul of a lost child." I argued silently with Him. That was certainly not the case! Surely God was mistaken. The clay feet of my idols began to crumble as I watched students respond to the worship time. Eyes closed, tears streaming, prayers offered, the Gospel preached, lives changed. Again, as always, God was right. A year later, my preferences had changed while the message of the Cross remained the same.

Then, completely unannounced, Gene approached me to ask about helping in our ministry. Gene was one of our older, senior adult members, and he held strong opinions about things. He was not a rude or condescending person, but he was bold. When he said he had been praying about volunteering with us, I hesitated. My earlier checklist of all the elements I had initially pushed against came back to mind. I looked at Gene and said, as tactfully as possible, "That's great that you would like to help. But let me suggest something: come by one Wednesday night, and sit in to see what happens. It is very different from what you might expect."

Gene agreed, and the next Wednesday, he showed up. That Wednesday went like most nights: high-energy music, passionate praise and biblical teaching, all amid the atmospheric surroundings of a dim room with lights to direct the focus of the students.

After the service, as the last few kids drifted from the room, there stood Gene. His face was etched in thought, and his hands were on his hips. I took a deep breath and shifted into diplomat mode as I walked toward him. As I got closer, he looked at me and said, "I have to tell you something...That was tre-men-dous! Oh, did you see how they worshipped God? Why doesn't everyone know what goes on down here? They sang so loudly. We adults never seem to sing like that! And they heard the Word of God taught, and they listened. I would love to be a part of this, just tell me what you need me to do."

From that day on, Gene became a valued part of the ministry. He encouraged our students and spent time listening to stories about their weeks. He taught the kids how to shoot pool. (Little did we know that Gene was a bit of a pool shark in earlier years, and routinely ran the table on all of us.) When Gene went in for a surgery, the kids put together a big get-well card for him. When I would look out in the crowd in the middle of a service, in the glow of the spotlight, would be the shimmer of Gene's white hair. The ministry was better for Gene being there, and his service was valued more than he could know.

Gene saw immediately what I almost missed, all because an idol filled my vision. So often, how I expect things to be gets in the way of what God wants to do. Though allowing God to cut those idols from our hearts is painful for the moment, the real pain comes from allowing them to remain buried in the places that belong only to Christ.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

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. Bible Study / Small Groups
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

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Friday, February 7 | Deacon/Widow Banquet |
| Tuesday, February 11 | Women On Mission, 9:00 a.m. at EBC |
| Thursday, February 13 | Senior Adult Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. |
| Tuesday, February 18 | Women's Ministry, 6:00 p.m. in The Hub |
| February 21-24 | The Compassion Experience, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 25 | Women On Mission, 10:00 a.m. at FBC |
| Friday, February 28 | David Phelps Concert, 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, March 8 | Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time ends |
| Wednesday, March 11 | No Midweek Activities |
| Thursday, March 19 | Senior Adult Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, March 29 | Boomers Fellowship, 6:30 p.m. at Georgia Blue |

CONNECTING & SERVING MINISTRY



Tuesday, February 18
at 6:00 p.m. in The Hub

New Members Class
February 23 and March 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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



COMING TO ELEVATE IN MARCH! The only morning news show worth watching is Good News! Join us on set and behind the scenes as we learn about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and how it applies to us today. Along the way, we'll need your help to keep bumbling anchors Tim Hunter & Trudy Grapevine from ruining the best morning news show on the air!



Sunday, March 8
Come to church in your PAJAMAS!
Donuts will be served in The Studio!

CENTRIKID CAMP : JULY 11-15 : AT TIMBER CREEK
THIS CAMP IS FOR CURRENT 3RD-6TH GRADERS. SIGN UP AT WWW.EASTHAVEN.NET.
THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS FEBRUARY 9! NO EXTRAS SPOTS WILL BE RESERVED.

STUDENT MINISTRY

PLAYBOOK **BEGINS FEBRUARY 12**
Not every season of life is a winning season. Even so, we've been called to strive for the prize. Join us as we discover God's game plans for life's toughest opponents.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN OUTREACH
JUNE 21-26 : Cost is \$300
\$100 deposit due by April 5
Register at www.easthaven.net

College & Career Ministry



College & Career Ministry
Passion Conference 2021
Dec. 31 - Jan. 3 in Atlanta, GA
\$360/person. A \$140 non-refundable deposit is due by Friday, February 28.

DAVID PHELPS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28



Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at www.easthaven.net or by calling the church office at 601.833.2597



The Compassion Experience : February 21-24

This free event, sponsored by Compassion International, features a 2,000 square-foot interactive, multi-media journey through the true stories of children living in the extreme poverty of developing countries like Kenya, the Philippines, Uganda and the Dominican Republic.

The times for the exhibit are 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily. Please allow 30-45 minutes for that tour. To help with traffic flow, you are encouraged to make a reservation, however walk-ins are welcome.

Register to **attend** or **volunteer to help** at cts.compassion.com/events/1343

Senior Adult Ministry

Valentine's Fellowship

Thursday, February 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Special Guest – Mickey Sandifer

Easter Fellowship

Thursday, March 19 at 10:30 a.m.
Special Guests : David & Kathy Montgomery

Sunday Morning Gathering : March 1 at 8:54 a.m.

Hosted by the Catherine Cox / Larry Dalgleish classes

Boomers Ministry

DINNER NIGHT AT GEORGIA BLUE
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 6:30 P.M.

- BE WATCHING FOR MORE INFO -

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES IN FEB / MAR

Lynnette smith – Ministry Assistant – 24 years
Sonya Foster – Serving & Connecting – 1 year
Carrene Scafidel – Pianist – 5 years
Paula McGowen – Housekeeper – 4 years

Missions Ministry



WOMEN ON MISSION
February 11 at 9:00 a.m. at EBC
February 25 at 10:00 a.m. at FBC

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

2019-2020 Twenty-Five Week Report

Needs: \$369,875 Receipts: \$359,628
Expenditures: \$313,220
Closing Balance, January 24, 2020 - \$44,408