



The Epistle

Eastwood Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, Alabama

Volume 20 Issue 4 - April 2015

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”

By Kevin DeYoung

The greatness of God is most clearly displayed in his Son. And the glory of the gospel is only made evident in his Son. That’s why Jesus’ question to his disciples is so important: “Who do you say that I am?”

The question is doubly crucial in our day because not every Jesus is the real Jesus. Almost no one is as popular in this country as Jesus. Hardly anyone would dare to say a bad word about him. Just look at what a super-fly friendly dude he is over there. But how many people know the real Jesus?

There’s Republican Jesus who is against tax increases and activists judges, and for family values and owning firearms.

There’s Democrat Jesus who is against Wall Street and Walmart, and for reducing our carbon footprint and spending other people’s money.

There’s Therapist Jesus who helps us cope with life’s problems, heals our past, tells us how valuable we are and not to be so hard on ourselves.

There’s Starbucks Jesus who drinks fair trade coffee, loves spiritual conversations, drives a hybrid and goes to film festivals.

There’s Open-minded Jesus who loves everyone all the time no matter what, except for people who are not as open-minded as you.

There’s Touchdown Jesus who helps athletes run faster and jump higher than non-Christians and determines the outcomes of Super Bowls.

There’s Martyr Jesus, a good man who died a cruel death so we can feel sorry for him.

There’s Gentle Jesus who was meek and mild, with high cheek bones, flowing hair, and walks around barefoot, wearing a sash and looks German.

There’s Hippie Jesus who teaches everyone to give peace a chance, imagine a world without religion, and helps us remember all you need is love.

There’s Yuppie Jesus who encourages us to reach our full potential, reach for the stars, and buy a boat.

There’s Spirituality Jesus who hates religion, churches, pastors, priests, and doctrine; he wants us to find the god within and listen to ambiguously spiritual musicals.

There’s Platitudinal Jesus, good for Christmas specials, greeting cards, and bad sermons; he inspires people to believe in themselves, and lifts us up so we can walk on mountains.

There’s Revolutionary Jesus who teaches us to rebel against the status quo, stick it to the man, and dream up impossible utopian schemes.

There’s Guru Jesus, a wise, inspirational teacher who believes in you and helps you find your center.

There’s Boyfriend Jesus who wraps his arms around us as we sing about his intoxicating love in our secret place.

There’s Good Example Jesus who shows you how to help people, change the planet, and become a better you.

And then there’s Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Not just another prophet. Not just another Rabbi. Not just another wonder-worker. He was the one they had been waiting for: the Son of David and Abraham’s chosen seed, the one to deliver us from captivity, the goal of the Mosaic law, Yahweh in the flesh, the one to establish God’s reign and rule, the one to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, freedom to the prisoners and proclaim good news to the poor, the lamb of God come to take away the sins of the world.

This Jesus was the Creator come to earth and the beginning of a new creation. He embodied the covenant, fulfilled the commandments, and reversed the curse. This Jesus is the Christ that God spoke of to the serpent, the Christ prefigured to Noah in the flood, the Christ promised to Abraham, the Christ prophesied through Balaam before the Moabites, the Christ guaranteed to Moses before he died, the Christ promised to David when he was king, the Christ revealed to Isaiah as a suffering servant, the Christ predicted through the prophets and prepared for through John the Baptist.

This Christ is not a reflection of the current mood or the projection of our own desires. He is our Lord and God. He is the Father’s Son, Savior of the world, and substitute for our sins—more loving, more holy, and more wonderfully terrifying than we ever thought possible.



Billy Joseph

Interim Pastor
Rev. Billy Joseph

Associate Pastor
Rev. Bart Lester

Assistant Pastor of Student Ministries
Rev. Brian Oaks

Church Administrator
Mr. Jerry Knotts

Interim Music Director
Seongho Choi

Organist/Pianist
Mrs. F. Baker/
Mrs. C. Carboni

Children’s Discipleship Team
Sonja Hinton
Ashley Draper
Lynn Grace

Nursery Director
Mrs. KC White

Church Secretary
Mrs. Donna Sparks

Missions 2015



Brad and Agi Baker

Church Resource Ministries
Hungary

January and February were special months here in the Baker household. Having finished college, Olivia spent two whole months here with us!!! Wonderful things happened in those two months.

Cowboy Christmas: Things actually started on December 23rd. A good friend runs an evangelistic Cowboy Camp on his small farm just south of Budapest. Each year he invites friends to a "Cowboy Christmas", where different parts of the Christmas story are acted out—complete with live animals. A pregnant Mary rode a donkey to the barn/manger. The Nativity included many of the animals most likely present at Jesus' birth. The sights, sounds, even smells were all realistic (we were able to pet a two-day old lamb). A bright star actually shone overhead! The highlight of the evening: Olivia sang a mini-concert. Upwards of 50 people heard Olivia sing her songs about the very Person we celebrate at Christmas. It was a wonderful way to start the Season.



Agi with some of her paintings.

Art exhibition and concert: A local Christian coffee house asked Agi if she would agree to her paintings being exhibited for two weeks. When they heard Olivia would be in town, they asked her to open the exhibition with a concert. Expecting 60 plus people, 112 people showed up on January 10th, opening night. There was not any standing room left in the place! Honestly, I literally

LOVED seeing the two women I love most being celebrated, who, in turn, were directing everyone's attention to the Ultimate Artist/Creator, in Whose image, Whose power, and to Whose glory, they both "create". One neighbor, oblivious to what He was saying, said it all: *"This was amazing! The heart, the confidence, and the power! This kind of thing is not natural here!"* Most importantly, all 112 people heard the gospel. Olivia sang ten plus original songs. After singing a 16th century Hungarian Folk version of a prayer based on Psalms 42, her next song was a prayer of her own celebrating Him Who answers her prayers.



Olivia in Concert (center)

A Dream Come True On January 15th Olivia and I boarded a train for Gyergyoszentmiklos, Romania. Olivia joined me as a fellow teacher/trainer to Pastor Zsolt Novak's team of missionaries. Olivia taught some of what she has been learning these past four years on worship—focusing on the importance of worship in missions (see Piper), and delineating what worship is, and is not. One day, after I spent the morning training on evangelism, Olivia spent the afternoon/evening training the worship team. Sunday, Olivia and this team put into practice what they learned, and led us in worship.

Inward, Outward, and Upward!! A few weeks later, Olivia accompanied me as a fellow teacher/trainer once again. The leadership of the Papa Reformed Church rented a quiet, Catholic monastery in the snowy hills of Bakonybel, Hungary, and Tamas Heizer and I were charged with giving one, final encouragement to end a 2.5 year Refocusing process. These leaders had earlier decided on a 3-directional purpose for their church: Inward, Outward, and Upward. I was tasked



Olivia Teaching

with encouraging the "outward" purpose (missional purpose). Olivia encouraged them in their "upward" purpose (worship, and bringing Glory to God). Tamas said afterward *"it wasn't just what she said that was*

powerful, but how she said it, and the logic of it. We need this kind of teaching on worship here in Hungary. There is a place for Olivia here, if God calls her here".

Prayer Request: Agi and I are thankful to God for a wonderful January and February, including our extended time with Olivia, and the many ways Olivia and her gifts were affirmed. We look forward with anticipation to the rest of 2015! We do have one huge request. Olivia flew back to Nashville to begin her "after college, grown-up life". Please pray for her as she discerns how and where God wants her to be a part of His mission. She truly does want to use her music, and all she has learned about worship, to His glory.

Thank You!!!

Brad

World Mission Conference 2015 in Pictures



Special Guest Speaker, Stephen Spanjer, Won by One International, Nuenburg, Germany.



The Children's choir, led by Sonja Hinton, blessed us with special music.



Missionaries Pictured: Terry and Brenda Fox, SEA Presbytery missionaries to Maxwell AFB; Harold and Sarah Schepian, Serge to the Pakistanies in London, England; Speaking, Chuck Tarter. Gospel Friendship Outreach in Ireland; Not pictured, Dave and Gwen Brooks, MTW/Wycliffe, Singapore.

World Mission Conference 2015 in Picture---Continued



Great Attendance!

The Children Meet Corrie ten Boom



Gestapo?



The Children listen intently as Mrs. Eidsmoe, plays the part of Corrie ten Boom, clothes, accent and all.



Making Pocket Watches at the ten Boom Watch Shop.





Eastwood Christian School

A Ministry of Eastwood Presbyterian Church

by Suzie Rhodes, Board Member

Most of us are not in daily contact with Eastwood Christian School. We know it's there...we can see the buildings and the cars and the children, but what really is going on? Who are all these people, and why is this important to our church and our community? I have been asked to write a short article and share some personal thoughts and testimony about Eastwood Christian School and the wonderful ministry that is occurring in our own backyard.

Eastwood Christian School has been a ministry of Eastwood Presbyterian Church for about 19 years. My family has been a part of the school for 15 years with all three children attending. A year and a half ago, I was asked to serve on the Board. I have come to appreciate even more the special place this school has in our church. However, amongst our congregation there is a general lack of knowledge about the school and its mission. It is my purpose to shed a little light on this ministry, and hopefully you will be encouraged and pleased by the good and noble work that is taking place.

For most of us, our specific knowledge of this ministry at our church is limited. For example, did you know that our Headmaster, John Geiger, oversees a faculty and staff of 34 full and part-time employees? You might also be surprised to know that over 300 students fill the K-12 classrooms every day! They come from all walks of life and from many different churches in our city. The families choose ECS because they want an education radically different from any other educational institution in town. They know that at ECS, their children will be taught the required basics, but within the context of the Christian faith. To be sure, ECS is a very challenging school: the daily academic exercises are rigorous and demanding. However, much more besides reading, writing and arithmetic are being taught. Students are also taught classics and liberal arts in such a way that they are thoroughly prepared for further post-secondary study.

ECS is a unique school in two ways: in what it teaches and how it teaches. First of all, every subject is presented and taught from a Christian world view. Why is that important? I think it is important because we live in a world where every day our faith is bombarded and minimized by our culture, by non-Christians, and by our government. We are constantly challenged to defend not only our Constitutional rights, but our doctrines and beliefs as well. To continue to be the salt and light we are called to be, and to be relevant in a world that regards Christianity as irrelevant and imaginary, we must understand how, why, and where our faith intersects, permeates and affects the whole essence of life every subject, every person, every day. We must be able to skillfully and

lovingly articulate, persuade and argue our beliefs as well as live them out. This is part of the scope and mission of ECS: to educate and equip the children of believers to understand these challenges and to be able to meet them head on. ECS accomplishes this by recognizing that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, and by teaching every subject according to the Holy Scriptures and adhering to the doctrines of the reformed faith.

ECS is also unique in its method of teaching. A Classical Model of teaching is used which simply divides the teaching/learning process into three phases: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. Each subsequent phase builds upon the previous phase, with the development of critical thinking as the overarching goal.

In addition and equally as important, ECS has purposed to partner with parents and families to train not only the mind, but the heart. The character-building of students is a primary concern, and much attention and time are spent in helping students develop solid Christ-like character. Every situation that arises during the day is seen as an opportunity to speak truth to the heart of the students, and teach and model Christ-like character. Students are encouraged to work through conflicts quickly and seek forgiveness and restoration.

ECS does not offer all the "bells and whistles" found in many other schools. It is distinctly and purposefully different, guarding against popular fads and trends. Every "good idea" is screened, thought over, and prayed about by the administration and Board. Each prospective family is interviewed and their profession of faith is verified; classroom curriculum is carefully chosen for content; and like-minded and like-hearted teachers are hired to partner with us in the classrooms. In every situation, Christ-like tone and compassion are used.

The current students at ECS will someday graduate and join approximately 150 alumnae. They will have gained the potential to touch the world in powerful and meaningful ways, whether in the workplace, the military, or the home. Each student will leave uniquely equipped to make an impact in their sphere of influence. At ECS they have been exposed to great thinkers, great literature, classic philosophy, and God's redemptive history of His world. They have been taught to critically think through every idea and proposal, and compare it to God's law and principles. They have learned to precisely articulate and clearly express, verbally and written, powerful thoughts and concepts, all with humility and compassion.

I invite you to be encouraged and impressed by this ministry of Eastwood Presbyterian Church. As often as you

are able, please attend school functions such as PTF, Graduation, the School Play and the Senior Speeches. It will renew your hope and encourage your heart to see and hear the wonderful ministry that is founded, supported and governed by this church. Make plans to attend Commencement Exercises on the evening of Friday, May 15th when 20 members of the Senior Class will be presented for diplomas. I guarantee that you will be very, very proud of your school and your church as you see the quality of the students.

In conclusion, I hope you will agree that ECS is an important ministry of this church. Every member can be thankful for and proud of this opportunity God has given our church. He has used the school for nearly two decades to bless many families and individual lives, and, Lord willing, it will continue to be a vital mission arm of Eastwood Church. Make it your purpose to be informed, be involved, and pray for this ministry of our church.

Special Announcements

Faith Promise 2014-2015

Goal:	\$117,255
Given:	86,372
Needed:	\$ 30,833

CHOIR NOTES

If you enjoy singing, consider joining our adult choir.

We are in need of:
2 sopranos
3 altos and
3 tenors.

We practice Sunday afternoons from 4:30- 5:45.

What a blessing it is to work with Seongho Choi as we bring our worship and praise to the Lord in song!



SAVE
The Date!
VBS
June 8-11

The **branch**
EASTWOOD STUDENT MINISTRY

Awesome D-Groups

Guys are meeting Wednesday Mornings at 6:30 at Chick-Fil-A on Eastern Blvd., and the ladies are meeting Thursday mornings at 6:30. Locations are announced weekly. For updates contact Heather Oaks @ 205-401-3145 or Robbie Cantey @334-467-7447.

New Sunday School Quarter Begins April 5th

1. Character Sketches of Famous Christians
Teacher: Rob Genin
2. Introduction to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*
Teachers: Rev. Bart Lester and Tim Cantey
3. Young Couples Class
Teachers: Jeff Dunn and David Morrison

APRIL Birthdays

Births

Nursery Ministry
KC White, Director

- 1. Leila Vaughn
- 2. Sonja Hinton
- 3. Joshua Youngquist
- 4. Abby Grace
- 6. Heather Oaks
- 7. Kent Gourley
- 10. Jim Smith
- 11. Aubrey Grace
Tommy James
- 12. Mark White
Hunter Wilson
Robert Williams
- 13. Susan Dunn
Daniel Phillips
Jeff Puckett
- 14. Wright Draper
- 15. Hannah Chancey
- 16. Luciana Hodges
David Morrison
- 19. Emily Pritzel
- 20. Bo Hodges
Skip Powe
Griffin White
- 21. David Evans
- 24. Tina DeLoach
- 25. Kellie Shumack
Johanna Stewart
- 26. Cannon Oaks
- 27. Knox DeHuff
Lee Sumner
Sammy Sumner
- 29. Lynn Grace
Jordan Autrey
- 30. Carrie Sedlak

Congratulations to Billy and Marian Joseph on the birth of their grandson, Albert Nicholas Joseph, on February 20, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Email and Address Changes

Ruth Miller
New Email:
ruthoswaltmiller@yahoo.com

Emily Williams
New Address:
2983 Old Farm Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Sympathy

Love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Hodges Family (Milton, Lain, Bo and Luci) in the death of Milton's mother and Bo's grandmother, Luella Hodges, On March 11th in Mississippi.

Love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Steve Autry and family in the death of his mother, Willodean Autrey, on March 8th in Greenville, AL.

DEACON of the WEEK

Mar 30-Apr 5.....Rick Joki
Apr 6-12.....Adam Lawton
Apr 13-19.....Scott Pritchett
Apr 20-26.....Adam Rodgers

Church-wide Rotation Schedule

April

Check Sunday Bulletin for the Weekly Schedule Changes

Apr 5 - AM.....DeHuff, DeLoach
PM.....**No PM Service**

Apr 12 - AM.....Draper, Dunn
PM.....Under shepherd Groups

Apr 19 - AM.....Evans, Gamble
PM.....Barbara Harrington

Apr 26 - AM.....Geiger, Genin
PM.....Leila Vaughn & Brenda Grouley

Special Events at Eastwood

Montgomery Choral
Sunday, April 19.....Concert
"A German Requiem".....2:30 p.m.
Free to Eastwood Members

Eastwood Christian School
Thursday, April 30.....Talent Show
6:00 p.m.



Southeast Alabama Presbytery has December meeting at Eastwood Church



Eastwood Presbyterian Church

1701 East Trinity Blvd.
Montgomery, Alabama 36106

Schedule of Events

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Class for Spanish Speaking Students
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Fellowship
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:55 a.m.	Morning Worship Service
	4:45 p.m.	Choir Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Missions Prayer Time
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	7:15 p.m.	Sr. High and College/Singles Fellowships in Homes
	6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study/Tim Cantey (Missions Room)
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study (Session Room - Glenn Draper)
	11:30 a.m.	Fasting and Prayer in Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE MINISTRIES CALL:

Church Office (Donna Sparks..... - 272-3103 **Student Ministries** (Rev. Brian Oaks)..... - 386-2388
Nursery Director (K.C. White)..... - 868-3292 **Women's Ministries** (Susan Dunn)..... - 239-9295
 Children's Discipleship Team: Sonja Hinton, Ashley Draper, and Lynn Grace.....-272-3103

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 AM Missions Room- Tim Cantey Men's Bible Studies: 7AM Session Room- Glenn Draper	2	3	4
5 Resurrection Sunday No Evening Worship	6	7 Pillars Bible Studies: 10 AM at the church 6:30 PM at Bonnie	8 6:30 AM Missions Room- Tim Cantey Men's Bible Studies: 7AM Session Room- Glenn Draper	9	10	11
12 AM Communion Undershepherd Groups Meet	13	14 Pillars Bible Studies: 10 AM at the church 6:30 PM at Bonnie	15 6:30 AM Missions Room- Tim Cantey Men's Bible Studies: 7AM Session Room- Glenn Draper	16 Montgomery Chorale Rehearsal	17	18
19 Montgomery Corale in concert Free for Eastwood Members	20	21 Pillars Bible Studies: 10 AM at the church 6:30 PM at Bonnie	22 6:30 AM Missions Room- Tim Cantey Men's Bible Studies: 7AM Session Room- Glenn Draper	23	24	25
26	27	28 Pillars Bible Studies: 10 AM at the church 6:30 PM at Bonnie	29 6:30 AM Missions Room- Tim Cantey Men's Bible Studies: 7AM Session Room- Glenn Draper	30 ECS Talent Show 6 p.m.		