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# myEast Side

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December 2011

Eastside Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ to impact the world locally and globally.

Dear Church Family,

The end of the year is fast approaching. The Christmas season is here. This has been a wonderful, while a very fast-paced year. The adage is true, “the older I get the faster the years seem to go by.” It hardly seems like Christmas was twelve months ago.

I got a letter a few days ago that I want to share with you. It is from Miracle Hill Ministries in Greenville, SC. Our church has supported this ministry for 51 years. What a joy!! This ministry has helped thousands through their 74 years history and we have had a part for 51 of those years.

They wrote a letter of thankfulness and appreciation for our investment in the lives of men, women and children. There is a story in there that I want to pass on to you.

*Brendon was dropped off at the Boys Shelter after being accused of stealing a car. When he talked to the counselors, he admitted to being on drugs and dropping out of school. Brendon began to cry, fearing that his life had spun completely out of control. However, the Boys Shelter staff took him in, encouraging him with the reality of scripture. Though Brendan’s difficult journey is just beginning, the staff trusts that God is going to meet every one of his needs, even the ones that he is too afraid to leave at the foot of the cross.*

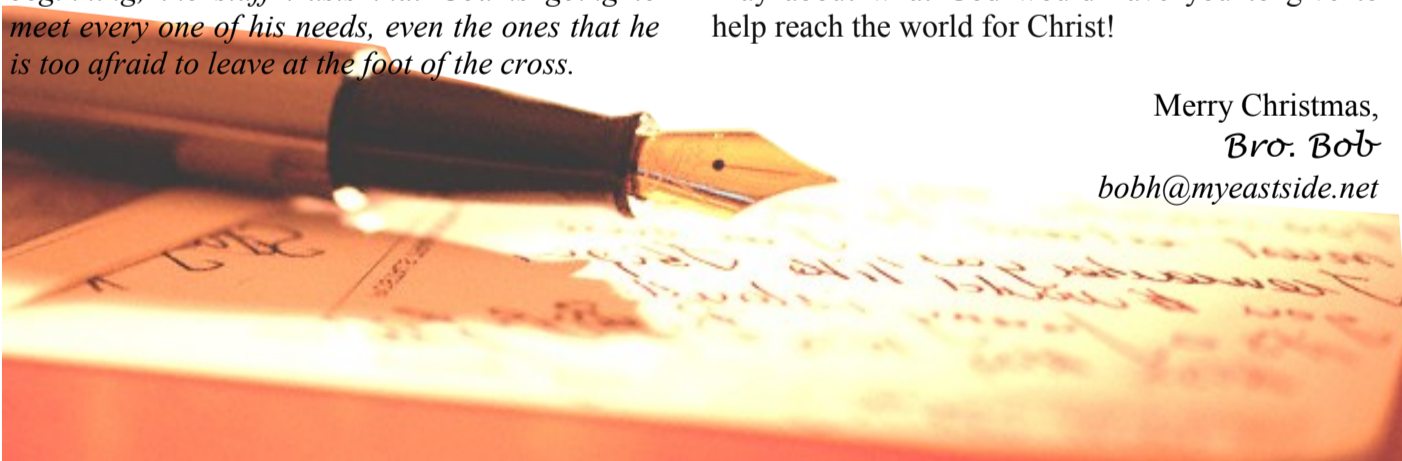
There are so many stories like that with the many ministries that we support with our Mission dollars. I am proud to be a part of such a mission-minded church like Eastside.

Every year at this time we receive the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The 2011 theme is “His heart, His voice, His hands – I am Southern Baptist missions.” It reminds us that as followers of Jesus, we – the Church – are called to be the body of Christ. We are His heart, His hands and His voice in the midst of a world filled with unreached people. We are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission. And although we Southern Baptists have been praying, giving and going for 160 years, the task is far from finished.

Paul says, “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it” (1Corinthian12:27). Southern Baptist missionaries can’t carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth without our support. How much will you give to reach the remaining lost? Think about what you are spending on Christmas gifts. Then consider giving your biggest gift to God – through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.® The 2011 goal is \$175 million. Our church’s goal is \$2500.

Pray about what God would have you to give to help reach the world for Christ!

Merry Christmas,  
Bro. Bob  
[bobh@myeastside.net](mailto:bobh@myeastside.net)



# Kids East Side



Olympians and Gopher Buddies  
Wednesday's at 6:45pm

*"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11*



Parents - be sure to have your children here for **ELEVATE** - our approach to Children's Worship - Packed with high-energy worship, age specific small groups, and fun interactive Bible lessons!  
Can't wait to see your children at **ELEVATE!**

## Sunday School Nursery Schedule

4 AM: Greg Hinton  
11 AM: Anna Hansen  
18 AM: Kay Jacques  
25 No Sunday School

## Nursery Schedule

4 AM: Temi Adeleke & Andrea Hinton  
11 AM: Sharon & Steve Hicks  
18 AM: Tina & Mike Martin  
25 AM: Linda Holcomb & Cheryl Suggs



# Children's Pastor Commentary

## Fall Festival

Well, our fall festival has come and gone and it was such a fun night. There were so many people from our community that came out to enjoy the activities, it was amazing. I do believe that our Jerusalem was reached and seeds were planted. Pray with me that these seeds will grow and help those reached to come to a place where they are ready to accept the free gift of salvation that only comes through Christ Jesus. I'm definitely looking forward to next year's fall festival.

## Parents Night Out - Dec 16th

Well, it's time for another parents night out. The next one is just in time for Christmas so you can get some of that much needed shopping done. For those of you who have never taken advantage of this, or have no idea what I am talking about, here are the details. Drop off your children at the church at 6 PM, we provide dinner, movies, fun and games for them so you can enjoy a night out on your own. The cost is \$5 per child, 1 year old through 6th grade. Oh yea, don't forget to pick them up at 9 PM. :)

## Teleios - The Birth of Jesus Musical

Your children have been working hard learning the musical during their Teleios classes each week. We will have our final practice on the 10th from 4 - 5:30 PM. Make sure your children have their costumes ready as this is a dress rehearsal. Your children will perform this musical for you on the 11th, during the morning worship service. Afterwards, we will head back down to the fellowship hall for a Christmas Party. Parents, we welcome you to come down and celebrate with us.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec. 10th, 4-5:30 PM - Children's Musical Dress Rehearsal
- ◆ Dec. 11th - Children's Musical
- ◆ Dec. 16th, 6 - 9PM - Parents Night Out

Nick Carrillo,  
Pastor of Children  
[nickc@myeastside.net](mailto:nickc@myeastside.net)

## Weekly Focus

### Children's Worship

#### Entourage

12/4 - A Good Friend Cares For Others! We will learn that a good friend cares for others in need.

12/11 - Children's Musical / Christmas Party

12/18 - Adult Musical/ No Toddler & Pre-K Worship

12/25 - Family Focus Weekend - No Children's Worship

#### Toddler & Pre-K Worship

#### Entourage Jr.

12/4 - I Should Show Love! This lesson will teach us that we should show love to others.

12/11 - Children's Musical / Christmas Party

12/18 - Adult Musical/ No Toddler & Pre-K Worship

12/25 - Family Focus Weekend - No Toddler & Pre-K Worship



# Missions

We have so many opportunities as a church to reach out and serve. If you would like to serve on one of our mission outreaches please let us know.

**A Friend's House** - This ministry outreach is looking for volunteers to work a couple hours a week in their office or working with the children. Please note that a background check and orientation is required by A Friends House. Orientation is always the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 am.

**Christmas Shoe Boxes** -We will be collecting shoe boxes for the children and elderly of Henry and Rockdale County, beginning on Sunday December, 4. For more information, please see the Missions Bulletin Board or Mike Martin.

**Christmas Cards** - The Ladies Ministry will be collecting Christmas cards for distribution among our congregation. They will continue to collect the Christmas cards until December 18. Please Note: We will not be able to mail out any cards.

**Lottie Moon** - As followers of Jesus Christ, we the church are called to be the body of Christ. We are His *heart*, His *hands* and His *voice* in the midst of a world filled with unreached peoples. An unreached people group is a group where less than 2 percent of the population is reached. During the month of November and December we will be receiving our Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Please help us reach our goal of \$2500.

**Coffee Café** - Our Café has been open for a while now and we would like to thank all that have donated to support us. Our Café is solely funded by donations. Please come visit and fellowship with our church family and have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a treat. We are looking for people who would be willing to serve in the Café by greeting guest, making coffee and supplying treats. Anyone who is interested please see Pat Sorg or Lisa Phelps. God bless you and thank you in advance for your consideration.

We have added a new mission's bulletin board. This bulletin board will have all information pertaining to all mission opportunities. Please come by and check it out. We would love for you to be a part of the missions outreach at Eastside Baptist Church.

*Serving the Lord,  
Mike Martin*

*[mikem@myeastside.net](mailto:mikem@myeastside.net)*



**Tuesday Morning Worship Service**  
*Each Tuesday at 10:30 am*  
*A traditional service with*  
*singing and preaching.*  
*A light lunch and time of fellowship*  
*follows after the service.*  
*All are welcome.*



## *“The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”*

Well, it is here again! The most wonderful time of the year, called Christmas. I like Christmas. I always have, especially as a kid growing up. I remember the day that my Dad went against my Mom and bought me that “Red Rider” BB gun. I never did put my eye out as she thought that I would. Those were good days. Now I have the time with my children and especially my grandchildren, and I have enjoyed watching them grow up. What a blessing they are. It’s Christmas!

Now, one aspect of Christmas is that football season is coming to an end, and I hope your team won. My team certainly did well this year. I’m still a loyal University of South Carolina Gamecock, and I must hasten to say that Mrs. Long’s team, a loyal University of Georgia fan, did well! So, it’s been a good year all in all.

But, I also know that Christmas can be a time of depression. There are many people who can go into deep, dark, dungeons of depression at this time of the year. I think of those who have lost loved ones this year, and this will be a lonely Christmas time. You will miss them more, perhaps, at this time of the year than at any other time, and this Christmas, just will not be the same.

I also know that depression comes when there is such turmoil in the family. Hurts, pain, grief, anxiety, all of these can surface and create real depression during this time of the year. I’m also reminded of those who have experienced divorce this year. Christmas is a lonely time and a difficult time. For those of you who are battling depression at this time of the year, I can only point you to the Son of God who was born on Christmas Day in Bethlehem. He is the one who gives us hope in a hopeless situation. He is the one who that when the doctor’s conclude there is no hope, I’m reminded that, yes there is. There is always hope in the Lord Jesus. What a wonderful time of year this is.

So, if you have to go get the shopping done, and you’re going to be battling for a parking place, just remember that Jesus really is the reason for the season. For those battling depression, “He will never leave us and never forsake us.” Have a very Merry Christmas!

*Ron Long*

### *My Eastside Staff*

Senior Pastor:	<i>Dr. Bob Halstead</i>
Pastor of Students	<i>Caleb Halstead</i>
Pastor of Worship:	<i>Don Phelps</i>
Pastoral Counselor:	<i>Dr. Ron Long</i>
Director of Missions:	<i>Mike Martin</i>
Pastor of Children	<i>Nick Carrillo</i>
Secretary:	<i>Dreme Brown</i>
Email:	<i>office@myeastside.net</i>



## “Small Churches are Small Because They’re Doing Something Wrong”



Ever heard those words? In some cases, this is absolutely true. But does that mean larger churches are large because they’re doing something right? Sure, sometimes; but maybe not always.

The issue isn’t this over-generalization that *small church = dysfunction* and *big church = health*. We can all point to shining (and not-so-shining) examples to refute that.

The issue is that we believe it.

It’s how we’re wired in this culture. We see numbers; we assign value to those numbers. Lower numbers, lower value. A packed house means a great show. A smattering of attendees and forget it--there must be something wrong here.

How do we break this mindset?

I think we each need to relearn that our church is THE CHURCH. Bill Hybels (a mega-church pastor) has said (and keeps saying) that “the local church is the hope of the world...” He doesn’t say *Willow Creek* or *Saddleback* or *Hillsong*. Or even *Northpoint*. And he doesn’t say *when the small church finally grows to 500*. He said *the local church*. And Jesus said something even better, “*on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

This has everything to do with **Small Church/Big Worship**. We have to stop defining our worship by how many singers we have. Or how big our band is. Or by the songs we sing. Or the songs we don’t sing. Or our doctrinal bent. Or how people express themselves during worship.

Instead, what if we defined ourselves as THE CHURCH, whether 40 or 4000? We are the body of Christ, the indestructible battering ram on the doors of hell. We are the royal priesthood chosen by God to bear His name for His glory.

We start believing that and our worship starts getting bigger.

*Don Phelps,  
Pastor of Worship  
donp@myeastside.net*



# Student Ministry

Dear Eastside Family,

I trust that this past Thanksgiving holiday was as blessed for you as it was for me. I am thankful for the fact that our nation has set aside a recurring annual day to sit back and realize what we have to be thankful for (pun intended, ha). We definitely have a long list of things to be thankful for thanks to the great God who loves us so dearly. I was reminded during the service we had after Thanksgiving (when the pastor let “us” preach) that we have an awesome staff here at Eastside. That is something I grow more and more thankful for as time passes. I’ve gotten the opportunities to meet and get to know several staff members in the local area near our church, and I’m sad to say that not every church is like ours. Staff and other personnel don’t always get along. The love they have can often go unseen and unnoticed. That is why I believe it is vital that we thank God for the love He has shown us and we must make sure that we do not keep that love, but that we spread it out to others. Love is meant to be given, not hoarded and forgotten, and I believe the same thing goes for thankfulness. That is key to remember as we enter into this Christmas season and remember what God did for us by sending His precious Son, Jesus.

Anyway, enough about what I think, on to what your kids and grandkids have been learning. This month on Wednesday nights we’re talking about The Comeback (Anticipating the Greatest Comeback Ever). It’s all about Jesus’ rapture of His church into Heaven before God’s judgment is unleashed on the earth. Using that information of what’s going to happen in the future, we are looking at how we are to be living now in a way that brings glory to God and doesn’t waste our time. We’re also studying the prophecies of the end times and it’s helping us to realize how big and awesome our God is. The song “Our God,” by Chris Tomlin, fits so well in this study. The lyrics “...our God is greater, our God is stronger, God, You are higher than any other...” constantly ring true in this study. Our God truly is all that and more. And knowing that He foretold thousands of years ago through multiple prophets the events we see happening around our world simply points to the fact that our God is amazing. Flat out, amazing.

Lastly, on behalf of myself and the entire youth group, we want to thank you so much for your support of us in our endeavor to raise money to go on our ski trip this month. You’ve been very gracious in buying Chick-fil-A calendars and Krispy Kreme doughnuts and we highly appreciate it. It was one more thing to be thankful over the Thanksgiving holiday. Again, thank you for your love and support and we ask that you continue to love and support us by praying for us regularly. There is no more valuable a gift than prayer. Priceless simply can’t be beat, and prayer is definitely priceless and essential. Thank you.

Caleb Halstead  
Pastor to Students  
1 Corinthians 11:1  
[calebh@myeastside.net](mailto:calebh@myeastside.net)





# EastSide

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

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*MyEastSide is the newsletter for Eastside Baptist Church. MyEastSide is also available as a monthly email. If you would like to have future newsletters sent to you in email form, please email us at [office@myeastside.net](mailto:office@myeastside.net).*

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#### Service Times:

Sunday School	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:50 am
Teleios	6:00 pm
Tuesday	10:30 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm



*Building our Future*