

East Balsam Beacon

Oct., Nov., Dec.
2021

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Thanks to
Sarah Bowers &
Larry Michaelson
for the pictures

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**East Balsam Baptist
Church**

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Pastor's Corner

Pastor Jonathon's usual message for the Pastor's Corner is not available for this newsletter because of COVID. Over a year ago when people talked about COVID, they expected it to soon be a thing of the past. But that isn't the case. EBBC is being hit hard with it now.

Services Cancelled September 19th & 26th

Notices have been sent on the Prayer and Information chains both weeks announcing cancellation of the in-person worship service. The following is a quote from the September 24th announcement.

"As of today, we know of 10 families and more than 20 individuals in the church who have contracted covid-19, and the numbers continue to climb. Because the virus is so widespread among the church family, and because new infections are still popping up, there will be no in-person worship on Sunday, September 26. The September Executive Board meeting is also cancelled. I am planning to livestream a message on Sunday, but there will be no music as many of our worship team members are still recovering from illness.

Corporate worship is essential, and cancelling in-person worship is a big deal. The deacons and I are aware that not everyone will agree with our decision, but please know that we are all in agreement and that we did not make this decision lightly. If you have questions or concerns, or would like to talk with one of us, I encourage you to call Roger Peterson, our Church Chairman, or myself. We would be happy to talk with you. And please keep us in your prayers. These are difficult times, and we need the wisdom that only God can provide as we lead the church. We trust that God will provide, according to his promise. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).

On a personal note, please pray for my family. Anika is recovering nicely from covid, but our two boys, Levi and Josiah, tested positive yesterday. Lucia was not tested, but she is showing some symptoms today. So far, I have avoided catching it. I am doing my best to prepare a message for Sunday while I'm at home taking care of my family.

The Lord bless you and keep you," **Pastor Jonathon**

COMING UP

Operation Christmas Child

School supplies are out in the stores again...keep an eye out for good deals. There are tubs under the back table for the donations. If anyone has extra fishing tackle, this can be donated and will be used to make into fishing kits. November 13th will be our packing day. We have a goal of 400 boxes.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

“Not Your Average Youth Group”

The Youth Group held its annual kick-off event on September 8th at church. There was a time of fellowship over dinner, then Sarah shared with the parents and youth about the upcoming year, and it was followed by an Adults vs. Youth glow-in-the-dark capture the flag game. The parents won!

This year the youth group will focus on being 'Not Your Average Youth Group'. They will do this by accepting the challenge to read the entire Bible in the youth group year, learning how to apply scripture to their daily lives during their Wednesday night gatherings. They will also work to get involved in the church in ways that fit their interests and abilities. Sarah wants the Youth to be involved in worship and serving in the church so EBBC becomes “their church”. Pastor Jonathon has also agreed to lead our very first Youth Group Praise Band, allowing those youth interested in worship to put those gifts into practice. There are many other initiatives that



will be put in place throughout the year to ensure our youth can show they are 'Not Your Average Youth Group'.

Please pray for Sarah and the team of leaders (Travis Bowers, Krista Moe, Grant & Christa Richter, Jonathon Enger, and Bea Volgren) and for the Youth as they read and learn from God's Word. They meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:45.

Mission Trip

Since January of 2021, 24 of our youth group and parents have been preparing to travel to Mireblais, Haiti on a week-long trip to encourage and support the ministry of GVCM. However, on July 8th the president of Haiti was assassinated and the trip had to be canceled. As they prayed over this decision Seth & Christine Spading (two of

the parents who would be attending the trip) had an idea that they presented to the team. Just a few years ago they served with a ministry called Cookson Hills in Oklahoma; we could go serve that ministry during the time we had planned to go to Haiti.

Cookson Hills is a children's home that serves at-risk children where they live out their vision to raise up healthy individuals who are empowered to positively impact future generations.

So, on July 31st, the team of 18 individuals drove from the church to Oklahoma to serve for the week. We spent the week cleaning a fence line, chopping and stacking wood, cleaning the lunch hall, and other projects as needed by the ministry. When we were not working (or sweating in 100+ degree temps) we were growing in relationship with the people who call Cookson their home. Through volleyball (of course), caving, hanging out at the river, and other fun events we were able to connect with them in a way that is still being felt today. We were challenged to have daily faith conversations as well as joined the youth at Cookson for their mid-week youth night where Noah Spading shared his testimony of life after living at Cookson and Sarah Bowers talked to the youth about her testimony of how God has brought her through similar circumstances as many of the youth.

Throughout the week the youth each were responsible to lead the team in a morning/evening devotion as well as cook on/some of the meals for the team.

Cookson was not what our team had planned, but that doesn't mean it wasn't in God's plan for them.

And there is still a desire to travel to Haiti in December - be in prayer for the team as they continue to follow the Lord into the unknown.



Saints Alive

On Saturday, August 14th, the Saints Alive (over 50 age group) met at church for a potluck meal. Val Rowe shared some of her life story. She was only 21, and had been married five months, when her horse stumbled, Val landed on her back with her legs in the air, and the horse fell on her legs breaking her back. She had been living a life of partying, but God got her attention during her recovery. She turned her life over to Jesus. He has blessed her in many ways through the years, and made her a blessing to others.

She told about living in a trailer house with a furnace that wasn't reliable. It was at that time that the EBBC congregation decided to build her a house. One Sunday during the church service, Val was in the basement nursery and upset because the loudspeaker wasn't on so she could listen to the service. It had purposely been turned off so an announcement could be made to the congregation about a meeting that afternoon to discuss building a house for Val—later called “The House that LOVE Built”. Not only did funds come from members of the congregation, but also from the neighborhood.

For many years, Val had a wheelchair that she propelled by hand. When her shoulders were wearing out, she got a motorized chair. Through the years it has been fun seeing Val wheeling around church with a child or two hanging on to her chair. I've often thought about what a blessing this is to the children. Instead of being afraid of someone in a wheelchair, they know it is a real person that they can talk to.

Submitted by Joan Michaelson—I've added information, with Val's approval, to what she shared at Saints Alive.

All Church Picnic

The annual ALL-CHURCH PICNIC was held on August 29th. Activities for the children included crafts in one of the classrooms as well as outdoor games and activities on the north side of the church.

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, September 5th, was promotion day for children in Children's Church. Several were promoted to the next level within Children's Church. Two of them, Maddie Jorgenson and Johnny Cramlet, were promoted out of Children's Church. They now stay in the sanctuary to hear Pastor Jonathon's sermon. Maddie and Johnny were each given a Bible.

Gallaghers Shared Work with Wycliffe

During the worship service on September 5th, Steve and Carol Jean Gallagher gave a short report on what they are doing for Wycliffe Bible Translators at this time. See their section under “Missions” for details.

EBBC Outreach Event

On Saturday evening, September 11th, an OUTREACH EVENT was held at church. Music was led by Allen Jorgenson. Kim Hilleshiem shared her testimony and burden for those who do not know Jesus as their Savior. She asked, “Are you burdened for friends or family members who are struggling...or who don't know Jesus?” Kim is the author of a book “*I Thought I was Going Crazy*”. Her book is her story of getting to know Jesus. Saturday evening, she shared how you can know Jesus.

You can view the Outreach Event on YouTube. The link is <http://youtube.com/c/EastBalsamBaptist>

Haiti Earthquake Relief

Approximately \$1,500 was given in support of earthquake relief in Haiti. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously!

News & Notes of Individuals

Former member, **Florence McEachern**, passed away August 1st.

Randal Trick lost his life in a motorcycle accident on August 12th.

His daughter, **Ana Trick**, was seriously injured. She is in rehab now and her trach was removed. She still has a lot of weakness on her left side but is continuing to recover.

Theresa Nelson returned home one of the first days of September. From the bulletin, "THANK YOU to church members and friends for the prayers, cards, food, and love during Theresa's illness and hospitalization. Thank you to Pastor Jonathon for his visits and concern. Gary and Theresa Nelson"

Steve Volgren has been transferred to United Pioneer Home in Luck—room 100. He is currently in quarantine. From the bulletin, "THANK YOU to East Balsam for your support while Steve is on his journey. We appreciate every one of you for your care and help. God Bless, Steve & Cheryl and Family.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Perhaps you have read a prayer request on the prayer chain recently from the Larsons requesting prayer for a mission trip John and Jackie are planning. As we uphold them in prayer concerning such an undertaking, I thought it might be appropriate to get to know them better, what is motivating them, and how the Lord brought them to this place for this time.

Jackie grew up in a Lutheran church and believed the doctrines she was taught. When her Mom got sick with cancer, Jackie became angry with God, unable to accept the idea that a loving God would take her mother away from her when she needed her mother the most. When Jackie's oldest son got into drugs and she didn't know where he was, Jackie began praying for God to save her son. God answered the cry of a mother's heart, saved her son, and Jackie began to believe again.

John was raised in a Baptist Church. John says there has never been a time when he did not believe. However, he likes to illustrate his Christian growth experience to the riding of a bicycle. He began riding "his bicycle" but there were times when he fell off, and had to pick up his bike and get going again. There were times when he walked his bicycle and had to get back on again and keep going. There have been times when the journey has been most enjoyable.

John and Jackie were married in 2002. They knew they needed to begin going to church, but which one--Lutheran or Baptist? They settled on a compromise. They would try one of each. At the urging of John's precious Grandmother from Minnesota who had heard about East Balsam Baptist Church, they came to EBBC one Sunday in 2015. They were warmly greeted and made to feel welcome by many--Pastor Gabe and Chuck Steege in particular. Soon afterward they publicly confessed their faith in believer's baptism under the ministry of Pastor Gabe.

Several years ago, the Lord placed a desire in the hearts of the Larsons to minister not only within the local church, but outside it as well. After much prayer, the Lord opened the doors for John and Jackie to take the position of

Caretaker Host at Skonewood Christian Retreat and Campground. For them, the work is not a job but a ministry that often gives more blessings back to them than they provide to their guests. They particularly enjoy meeting believers from other ethnic groups. It is this that has challenged them to go outside their comfort zone and explore opportunities to minister in third world countries. After closing the door for a trip to Haiti with others from EBBC, the Lord opened the door for John and Jackie to plan a trip for January 15-22, 2022, to Guatemala to minister in an orphanage run by Hope of Home Ministries. With the orphanage being very selective of whom is chosen, and limiting helpers to small groups, the Larsons are humbled by the idea that they should be chosen to participate in the Lord's work by serving some of the "least" of His beloved children.

You will recognize John as one of the first persons you meet at the door when you enter EBBC. He is never quite sure if he should shake your hand or hug you. So please feel free to let him know if you are a hugger! John serves the Lord and the congregation of East Balsam as an Usher, a Trustee, and he leads a Men's Bible Study on Saturday mornings. Jackie loves the little ones and is a faithful teacher of the 3- & 4-year-old Children's Church class. She is loved by all her students, my granddaughters included!

John says there is not a day that goes by that he doesn't think of his church family and thank God for the people of EBBC. Let's return the love by upholding them faithfully in prayer now and into January, 2022.

Submitted by Lynda Hall

WOOD LAKE CAMP

THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

RUSTIC BUT MODERN

FAMILIAR BUT NEW

Wood Lake Bible camp was started in the 1930's by the Great Lakes Baptist Conference to serve as an outreach to the children of the area. It was a very rustic camp but had a beautiful location with a nice sandy beach on Wood Lake. Over the years changes were made but it still was very rustic. In 2017(?) the camp was closed and had to be sold due to financial difficulties. This created a loss for the children in that they no longer had a Bible camp close by.

That loss is in the process of being solved. Wood Lake Camp has recently been purchased by Forest Springs. They run three other camp/retreat centers in Wisconsin and Michigan, including Oak Forest Center by Frederic. They bought Wood Lake Camp with the vision of continuing to use it as a camping ministry.

There has been a lot of work done to the camp, with much left to be done. They are finishing the interior of all the building with knotty pine. This continues the rustic feeling yet with a very modern finished look. The cabins have been updated with bathrooms, kitchenettes, heat, and ac. The main remodeling project that is left to do is the KDA. This is the kitchen-dining area. They are still working on plans for it. Forest Springs isn't a rich organization so changes will be done as money allows.

The leadership of Forest Springs are still working out exactly how the camp will be used and when it will be open for use. They are talking about camping, possibly some day camps next year as they continue to get everything ready. There is also the possibility for retreats, use by churches, and reunions. They are looking for God's direction and planning the vision for the camp.

With the changes that have been made the camp still has a rural rustic feel but it is very modern. With the new, modern environment that they have created, it will be exciting to see what God will use it for to reach out to the next generations. Many people have been drawn to God there in the past. Let's pray that God can continue

to use the camp in the future. We can thank God that it is so close so that we can take full advantage of its resources.

Submitted by Larry Michaelson



MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Greetings from Oaxaca, Mexico!

We have been back here for over a month and doing well, PTL! We had big plans to make trips out to the village to work with people to practice reading Mixtec in order to have 11 people ready to be the various voices for the Luke video which we want to dub this year. Alas, we are still in our home outside of the village without a single visit there. We were given permission from our covid security team to go, but then did not have peace about making the trip. Shortly thereafter, we heard of many cases and some deaths in the village, though none were confirmed to be covid. (Rarely does one get tested here since the cost is equal to about 4 days' wages!)

Instead, we have been:

1. Revising the draft of Colossians that Valentín drafted while we were in the US to prepare the workshop on this book going on Sept. 20-Oct. 1;
2. Finished responding to all of the consultant notes for Luke, checking them with some friends in the village via WhatsApp;
3. Translating questions for village-checking Acts when we feel it is time to make trips out there;
4. Finding supervisors for teams as needs arose after our biennial Mexico Branch conference Aug. 2-12;
5. Printing copies of our literacy books that were recently published.

We are so grateful to God for you and are praying for the covid situation among you all to recede.

Blessings!

Candice

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

Praise the Lord five more appointees have been trained and are taking their next steps toward creating their team for full-time ministry. There are now 188 Converge global workers in 31 nations and 53 appointees building their teams to be deployed. The most recent appointees are interesting because they are ethnically as well as ministry diverse. A Vietnamese pastor is U.S based reaching back into Vietnam and other parts of Asia, a young man of Indian (India) heritage and his family are moving to Indonesia, a Congolese man and his wife are moving back to the Congo to train, and, Church Engagement is gaining another member to strengthen their reach into U.S churches as they seek to send more missionaries to the least reached.

In family news, our eldest, Lee and her family moved to Kazakhstan. Her husband is teaching at a university. They've begun learning Russian. They seem to all be adjusting well. We were just able to spend a few days with Claire and her family after the Converge Launch training. John Jr and his family had a blessed/safe two week visit to Germany for his wife to see her family. And, our youngest, Neil and his wife picked us up at the airport last night. Praise the Lord for good health and safe travel.

Serving together with you...John

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators-Florida

From Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher – September 22, 2021

We greatly enjoyed being with you at East Balsam on September 5th.

The past month has been extremely busy for us. Our primary goal has been to share with our partner churches and groups about what we're now doing in Wycliffe, thanking them for partnering with us, and challenging them to continue their part in sharing God's glory throughout the earth. We have been very encouraged by the people at these churches and groups.

In between these meetings we have:

- Attended training in Boston for writing translation helps for mother-tongue translators (Steve)
- Attended two training events in Orlando about how Wycliffe's mobilization team can more effectively serve Bible translation partners (Carol Jean)
- Participated in online training of new Bible translation consultants (Steve)
- Prepared for upcoming consultant work with the Etulo translation team in Nigeria (Steve)
- Kept up (somewhat) with priority emails and tasks for Wycliffe's mobilization team. (Carol Jean)

We are hoping to fit in a few days of R&R on our way back home. By the time we return to Florida on October 3rd, we will have travelled almost 5000 miles by car and 5000 miles by air.

Thank you, East Balsam family, for being partners in this work through your prayers and donations.

Steve & Carol Jean

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Gil has sent two e-mails the week of September 19th with prayer requests for VISAs to arrive so the workers can get to Ethiopia.

Gil was scheduled to leave the US on Friday, September 25th. That has been changed to October 4th. Training meetings have been changed.

At least three factors played into the decision: 1) civil unrest in Ethiopia, 2) a translation-of-curriculum glitch which meant that the Isaiah curriculum would not be ready and 3) the visa delay. We hope all the visas will be issued within two more weeks, in plenty of time for the Hawassa training. **So, we still need your prayers for four more visas to be issued.**

A few comments about the “civil unrest.” Tigray province in the north has mobilized troops with the goal of taking down the current government, so a civil war is in progress. Tigray’s advance has been blocked on three fronts, and there is a tentative ceasefire. If the Tigrayan leaders, who controlled Ethiopia from 1991 to 2019, were to regain control, we could expect a thwarting of the current anti-corruption, pro-democracy, nationalistic efforts of Dr. Abiy, the Christian prime minister. China would regain dominant influence, and evangelicals would be again marginalized.

For now, things are peaceful in the capital, along most main roads and in all the areas where we expect to be. A TLI team currently on the ground west of the capital, reports a fruitful training with a record turnout in a peaceful situation. However, due to the wartime footing of the government, public schools nationwide are closed for two weeks. Consumer prices are rising quickly. The EU & China have curtailed credit to Ethiopia, and the US government is threatening sanctions.

So please pray for the peace of Ethiopia as well as for our visas!

Grateful for your prayers,

Gil Zinke

East Balsam Baptist Church
1816 – 108th Street
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.
9:30 A.M. – Children's Church
Tuesday – 9:00 A.M. - Women's Bible Study
Wednesday – 5:45 P.M. Youth Group
Saturday, 7:00 A.M. – Men's Bible Study
Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & on web site

www.eastbalsam.org

To get to livestreaming,
our YouTube address is [youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist](https://www.youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist)

OR

on the church website,
scroll down to SERVICES, move your cursor right and click on YouTube.

Send Prayer Chain requests to east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com,
or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or
Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055