



Koinonia

Volume 2 Issue #1

www.eaglepointenaz.com

January 15, 2008

Hi EaglePointe Family!

Christmas is over and Wow! It was an exciting one for us. There is just something "magical", "miraculous" "Magical?" about being able to teach a child the true meaning of Christmas while simultaneously helping to remind all of us old timers to keep the "main thing the main thing".

It was almost surreal for Lisa and I this Christmas with our own two children. As I was holding Blaine on my lap at the Skinners Christmas Celebration at moms, reading him the Christmas story from his "Beginners Bible" I kept thinking, I needed to pinch myself but dare not lest I awake from my dream that was just too amazing to end.

As Lisa and I watched our children playing with their cousins we felt so blessed by God. A Blessing we dare not refuse but if we compare what we have done for God with what he has done for us--the blessing is at best undeserved. I believe Lisa summed it up well in her poem. If you did not catch it I will include it at the end of this email.

At this moment in time our house is actually quite! It is almost eerie. We persuaded Blaine to take a break from his Spider Man "motorcycle" Mimi got him, and take a nap and laid Hayden down for the same.

Both are resting peacefully, as I write this letter and reflect on our Christmas miracles.

Your Christmas Stories

We would love to hear your Christmas stories. Please email them and we will share it with the church family and friends in the next issue of : HYPERLINK

["http://www.eaglepointenaz.com/publications/index.html"](http://www.eaglepointenaz.com/publications/index.html) *Koinonia*.

This is part of what it means to live in Christian community together. We share our joy with each other because it is meant to be shared! There is something about sharing joy that adds to the joy. It is not something that can be measured, but its effects can definitely be observed. Unshared joy is like a wet firecracker. It might explode but it just doesn't have nearly the impact that it would otherwise have.

Morning Worship Began

January 6th 8:30AM

Most of you know we begin morning worship, Sunday January 6th@ 8:30 a.m. in the facilities we are sharing with Abundant Life Church, at the corner of College and Shug Jordan Parkway. You can get directions from our website: HYPERLINK

["http://www.eaglepointenaz.com"](http://www.eaglepointenaz.com)

Lisa and I had the new worship leader (Adam) and his family over during the holidays for dinner. I shared God's vision for EaglePointe with them, and discuss the music.

FD08

WHAT?-----Friend Day 2008! We want to begin spreading the news about EaglePointe.

We still have some rough edges and feel free to explain that to your friends when you invite them. Most people understand that when you are just getting started you have to work out a few kinks here and there.

When your pastor is ADHD, you probably have a few more kinks than normal. Ha Ha But at least it is never boring!!! The positive spin for this is "you never know what to expect when you come to Eaglepointe!"

People love a mystery. FD08 is coming soon so watch your email and listen to announcements for the exact date and details on this.

We will have a free gift for all first time guests on friend day (Probably a Gas Card) and a prize for the person who brings the most first time guests. (Probably a dollar)-Joking!

Membership Sunday February 24th

The church year ends in February so we have to begin to begin getting a little more organized. Several of you have been attending but we have not yet had the opportunity to become a "formal member of the family.

For those of you who are interested in transferring membership to EaglePointe, becoming a formal member of the Eaglepointe Family or finding out more information regarding membership, Please email me, call me, or grab me at church prior to February 17th. Depending on the number of you interested, I will either sit down with you individually and discuss the beliefs of the Nazarene church and the requirements for membership, or we may have a membership class.

District and General Budgets

EaglePointe has to pay District budgets of 12% of all monies raised this year. It will be 14% next year, and then in 2010 we will be at the regular level of other churches 16%. As a new start church we get a break. This money is paid out of our regular tithes and offerings.

District budgets go to support the district camp ground at Rolling Hills. www.rollinghillscamp.org, Trevecca Nazarene University, the district office expenses which include sponsoring new start churches such as EaglePointe, and various other expenses associated with running the district.

In addition we are expected to give offerings to the Nazarene Bible College, and the Nazarene Theological Seminary. Unlike Trevecca these institutions do not receive district allocations of monies to support them and are

solely dependent upon money raised through local churches and other independent sources.

The General Budget/World Evangelism Fund- is allocated to each church based upon a formula which includes total monies raised by the church last year.

This money is used for the global church work in almost 150 world areas. If you want exact details you can follow this link to more information. HYPERLINK:

["http://www.nazarene.org/ministries/NFS/stewardship/education/brochures/dollar/display.aspx"](http://www.nazarene.org/ministries/NFS/stewardship/education/brochures/dollar/display.aspx)

These funds are typically raised by the local church through one of two ways. Faith Promise-Usually this begins on a designated Sunday in the year where the members are challenged to pledge in faith over and above their tithes and offerings that they will give an amount and trust God to provide the money. The second option is Easter Offering and Thanksgiving Offerings.

This year EaglePointe's WEF is \$2378.00 we have paid \$1300 so far plus 365.00 to Compassionate ministries/WorldVision to sponsor a child and 250.00 to the Jesus Film Project. We owe \$1078.00 in order to be paid in Full for our general budgets this year.

EaglePointe in 2008

This coming Year we will have 3 primary areas of focus. Children, Worship, and Youth.

- Children- We will continue our focus on developing the Children's department. We have an incredible asset in Lisa and she has the knowhow and education to make our children's

department the best in the valley! Name another church in this area that has a PH.D in education building their children's department from the ground up. Now that Lisa does not have the responsibility of leading worship I have tasked her with assembling a team of people from inside and outside the church to write a curriculum with objectives for learning and strategies for engaging interests while simultaneously teaching firm biblical truth and understanding for the children that pass through the halls of EaglePointe.

- Youth- The primary goal here to begin meeting in Auburn for NYI. We are fortunate in that Alabama South District NYI is one of the best districts to be a young person in the Church of the Nazarene. The kids are open to new people, they are friendly, and the leadership is second to none. It is intentionally about its missional mindset, and is focused on teaching the teens to live beyond themselves and impact the lives of others through ministry, witnessing, testimony, and service to God and others. We have a few teens and we need to pray for a good leader for our youth to come along to help us reach more teens in our community.

- Worship-While we have found a new worship leader he is still not permanent. He is on loan from Abundant Life. In addition my vision for worship goes way beyond music. My vision for the worship at Eaglepointe is experiential. We live in a society that is bombarded by broad range of media that engages all 5 of our senses. Any good teacher will tell you that an effective teacher will utilize a teaching strategy that is designed to engage the student and pull them into the lesson. A good teacher is not a "sage on the stage but a guide on the side." If this is the case then why do we pastors expect to stand up and lecture you for 20-40 minutes on Sunday and expect you to retain what you heard, much less transform your life. I want to utilize a myriad of forms of worship from the time one walks in the door until the time they leave. I want people to remember the EaglePointe Experience as one that is not your typical church but simultaneously is transforming lives with Biblical truth. It is possible to be relevant and Biblical it just requires more thought and planning. This requires a team of people gifted in different areas. Art, Drama, Design, Teaching, preaching, music and more depending on the elements being included during any given Sundays worship.

This is a big undertaking and I do not yet have the resources in place to make this happen. In addition until we have our own dedicated

building some of the design elements will not be feasible as they require set up and take down time that we do not currently have. But we can still pray about it and we will utilize those elements such as video, imagery, and sound that we currently have access to.

Pastor Jeff

Lisa's Poem

Twas the Night of Christmas

Twas the night of Christmas and in the Skinner home

Not a child was awake for all day did we roam.

Daddy in the kitchen sneaking a bite to eat

While happy cats are begging at his feet.

Mama on the computer trying to wipe away tears

Experienced a Christmas she had dreamed of for years.

A Christmas like no other is what happened these last days

As Mama and Daddy watched their new family play

With grandparents and cousins and uncles and aunts

And more friends than anyone can count.

Gifts—very large to as small as a mouse

Even gifts from our waitresses at The Waffle House!

It is true that the greatest gift is God's very own Son

But our miracle family is another grand one!

I can't put into words how blessed I feel

To have 2 precious children to share Jesus' love with.

I hope that this Christmas you celebrated Jesus Christ

His birth, His resurrection, His

constant presence in your life.

Santa and his elves are probably sleeping away from all noise

Now Mama and Daddy have to figure out what to do with all these new toys!

Merry Christmas!

Lisa (Mama)

● Dare to SOAR!

Our Mission:

is to seek opportunities to build authentic relationships in order that we may earn permission to share Christ.

Our Vision:

To SOAR beyond the mediocrity of mere Christianity.

In-reach

We continue to seek out others in need within the community

Prayer Station We will be setting up the prayer station at some public events in the community and simply asking people if we can take their prayer requests and pray with them.

Foster/Adoptive parent Seminars



Lee county foster parents are in desperate needs of someone to help equip them to meet the needs of some of these foster children from DHR. Many of these children suffer from attachment disorders, Oppositional Defiant disorders and many others. These seminars will equip these parents with strategies and expectations for dealing with these various behavioral disorders.

Judy Hardy- LPC has agreed to be our speaker for these seminars.

This will be an additional outreach to the community. If you know a foster adoptive parent in the Lee County area; inform them of these upcoming seminars.

A date is yet to be determined so keep an eye on your email or the EaglePointe website for news related to this.

PRAYER REQUEST



PRAYER NEEDS:

- Betty Smallwood
- Rod Marks
- Michael Balsar
- Angie and Michael Brown
- Shelley Berry

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dan-shelleyberry>

- Dan and Linda Tradewell
- Lisa and I
- Jack Chandler Family
- Auburn Opelika Community
- Julia Garbe
- Hayden's court date
- Dixie, Scott and Dylan
- Rebecca Ibrahim

- Jim Garner
- CFC Church
- Rick Hagen
- The Berry's - Our new D.S.
- Kyle and Loretta Felts
- Holley Felts
- Outreach activities
- Workers for the Harvest
- EaglePointe
- Missionaries to help disciple others
- New Start churches on ASD Lighthouse, EaglePointe

NEWS

Directions to Our New Location:

- From 280 take exit 57. Turn right, go to light, turn left on East Glenn.
- Go until you see the corner of East University and Glenn. Turn Right on East Glenn.
- EaglePointe is at the corner of North College and East University/Shug Jordan.

Sunday morning worship begins at 8:30am!



Just a reminder to put CityFest on your calendars this year. We had a great turnout for Our Halloween outreach and City Fest is even Bigger.

It is April the 26th all day

To: eaglepointefamily@eaglepointenaz.com

Dear Pastor Jeff ,

Greetings! I hope that you are having a wonderful week. I am writing to let you know of a program that we have at Trevecca Nazarene University. Each week, our campus community is praying for one church and pastor from each district. This week , you and your church are on our prayer list. We know that churches throughout the region pray for us each week, and we are excited about the possibility of partnering together with our churches and pastors through prayer. We hope that you will feel the Lord's presence in your life in a special way this week.

In Christ,

Heather



Heather R. Daugherty

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It's Time!

Well, we've talked... wondered...planned...prayed...Now, God has said, it's time!

Our wholeness ministry, From the Dust of the Rabbi is about walking with Jesus in the dust of the world. We follow Him so closely that the dust he stirs settles on us.

The first phase of From the Dust of the Rabbi will begin with the women in small share group on Tuesday night January 29 at 6 pm Central which will meet in Lisa Hartzog's home.

Almost 15 years ago, I told Lisa goodbye as I drove away from the parsonage on Pleasant Drive in Opelika Alabama after the death of my husband...My children's father. My story was anything but Pleasant. At times, we find ourselves in circumstances that we could never expect. Those are the times that we look to God... for only God can unfold our stories. As I drive back into Auburn each week, I am reminded that I am a participant in a larger Story...His Story... His Story for His purpose.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life...life in all its fullness." (John 10:10 NIV, NCV). Jesus calls us to life...Eternal life... Abundant life! Who is offered this abundant life?... All who are thirsty... You and me...How do we live this life?... "For I will surely deliver you, and you shall not fall...; but your life shall be as a prize to you, because you have put your trust in Me," says the Lord."

May we seek His Heart as we seek to rediscover ours. Heart living is what wholeness is all about. I cannot wait to hear the stories... see the miracles... experience the healing as God begins our journey into His Home... Our hearts..

Judy Hardy



He Loves to Be with the Ones He Loves

by Max Lucado

Holiday travel. It isn't easy. Then why do we do it? Why cram the trunks and endure the airports? You know the answer. We love to be with the ones we love.

The four-year-old running up the sidewalk into the arms of Grandpa.

The cup of coffee with Mom before the rest of the house awakes.

That moment when, for a moment, everyone is quiet as we hold hands around the table and thank God for family and friends and pumpkin pie.

We love to be with the ones we love. May I remind you? So does God. He loves to be with the ones he loves. How else do you explain what he did? Between him and us there was a distance—a great span. And he couldn't bear it. He couldn't stand it. So he did something about it.

Before coming to the earth, *"Christ himself was like God in everything. ... But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant"* (Phil. 2:6-7 NCV).

Why? Why did Jesus travel so far? I was asking myself that question when I spotted the squirrels outside my window. A family of black-tailed squirrels has made its home amid the roots of the tree north of my office. We've been neighbors for three years now. They watch me peck the keyboard.

I watch them store their nuts and climb the trunk. We're mutually amused. I could watch them all day. Sometimes I do. But I've never considered becoming one of them. The

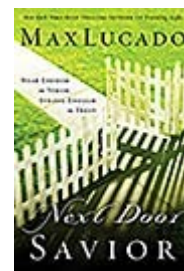
squirrel world holds no appeal to me. Who wants to sleep next to a hairy rodent with beady eyes? (No comments from you wives who feel you already do.) Give up the Rocky Mountains, bass fishing, weddings, and laughter for a hole in the ground and a diet of dirty nuts? Count me out.

But count Jesus in. What a world he left. Our classiest mansion would be a tree trunk to him. Earth's finest cuisine would be walnuts on heaven's table. And the idea of becoming a squirrel with claws and tiny teeth and a furry tail? It's nothing compared to God becoming a one-celled embryo and entering the womb of Mary. But he did. The God of the universe kicked against the wall of a womb, was born into the poverty of a peasant, and spent his first night in the feed trough of a cow.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14 NRSV).

The God of the universe left the glory of heaven and moved into the neighborhood. Our neighborhood! Who could have imagined he would do such a thing.

Why? He loves to be with the ones he loves.



From [Next Door Savior](#)

Available in [Hardback](#) or [Paperback](#)

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If you wish to share your experiences in Koinonia please email article to wdhjsh1952@gmail.com

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