

Edgewood Expressions

A publication of Edgewood Church

Thoughts from Stan May, 2024



Stan Markowski Interim Pastor

At Biola I took a class with a professor named Jerry Root. Jerry's two passions were C.S. Lewis and evangelism, and to this day, his classes have been some of the most engaging I've ever been part of. Jerry would talk with us about how most energy gets focused on the method of evangelism such as programs, or door-to-door, or street witnessing. If people weren't focusing on that, they were often focusing on the apologetic nature of evangelism; they

wanted to be prepared to respond to whatever objection the person might have.

Now there's nothing necessarily wrong with effort on those two things, but Jerry would tell us we needed to spend a lot more work on the pre-work of evangelism which is about relationship and prayer. While we want to be ready to share the gospel with any stranger, most of our opportunities lie with our existing relationships. We should be the kind of friends who have won the right to share our faith when the opportunity arises.

As far as prayer, Jerry would tell us we should be praying for opportunities to share our faith. He said this did two things. On the one hand, God may create a supernatural opportunity where there wasn't one before. On the other hand, by praying, we would have eyes to see what God was already doing. When Jesus said the fields are ripe for the harvest, but the laborers are few, sometimes the issue is the laborers aren't paying attention.

As we talked about this Sunday, one of the best things we can be doing is praying for God to give us eyes to see the harvest in front of us, and the willingness to go out and harvest. We may not yet have fully thought out strategic plans, but we can all do the work of preevangelism so that we are ready when God makes his path clear to us.







CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Worship Services: 10:45 am in English and 1:00 pm in Spanish

SUNDAYS

English

Worship Service - English 10:45am in Sanctuary

**Livestream of Service 10:45am Facebook
Children's Classes (Nursery-6th grade)
Youth Group 12:00 noon

Spanish

Adult Sunday School - Spanish 12:00 noon Rooms 38 & 39 Childcare for SS attenders 12:00 noon

Worship Service - Spanish 1:00pm in Sanctuary
**Livestream of Service 1:00pm on Facebook Live

Children's Sunday School (2 yrs-6th grade) 1pm in Sanctuary, then move to classrooms

TUESDAYS:

Open Gym Men's Basketball 6:00-7:30 am Gym Prayer Gathering 7:30am via Zoom*

WEDNESDAYS:

Caleb Community (Seniors Ministry) 12:00noon Junction Spanish-Speaking Discipleship Class 7:00pm Facebook Live

THURSDAYS:

Men's Bible Study 7:30am Lynnwood Shari's

FRIDAYS:

Spanish-Speaking Prayer Time 7:00pm Sanctuary

^{*} General Zoom invites are issued weekly via email to those on our "In the Know" list. If you'd like to be included, please contact the church office.

^{**} It is possible that your image will be captured and included in this service while it is shown live.







Jeff Joyner Worship & Family Pastor

One of my favorite cartoon characters



growing up was Foghorn Leghorn. He was a big rooster that talked with a southern accent. I guess I could relate to him somewhat because I grew up in the south. Except Foghorn Leghorn knew nothing about southern hospitality. He was loud, obnoxious, and called everybody "boy." He also sounded exactly like the Business Law professor at the college I attended.

This professor had been a practicing lawyer for forty years, and I was sure he had never lost a case. Everything about his demeanor reminded me of Foghorn Leghorn. I would often see him on campus, and his boisterous personality would always appear to dominate conversations. But the thing that troubled me the most was, I was a business major which required me to take his class. As I approached my final quarter, I went to an advisor to see if I could avoid taking Business Law. I quickly found out there were no other options available. If I wanted to graduate, I would have to take the course.

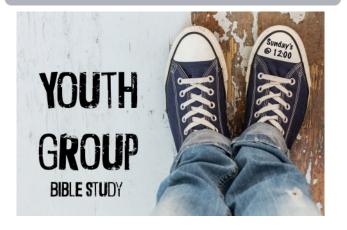
The first day of class, I walked in and there he was. Foghorn Leghorn: Attorney at Law. As I sat down, all I could feel was dread. I just knew I would be spending the next couple months watching this man humiliate me in front of the whole class. As the days went by, something different began to happen. I started to see that he wasn't at all like he appeared. One day I was sitting in his class, and he made a reference to his church. I had recently rededicated my life to Christ, so I was greatly interested in what he had to say. After class, I went up to his desk and we had a conversation about our shared faith in Christ. The person I had misjudged as Foghorn Leghorn was actually a brother in Christ.

Continued on next column

Children



Students



As I finally walked down the aisle to receive my college diploma, I knew that out of all the courses I had taken, my Business Law class would turn out to be the most impactful. For the lessons I learned there will stay with me for the rest of my life.

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17

Adults



YouVersion

With the YouVersion Bible App you can read all versions of the Bible, see the current week's sermon, and have access to many different devotions, all on your smartphone or tablet.

It is our pleasure to announce high school and college graduates. We are collecting the names and details NOW for June publication in the bulletin and newsletter. Please



email your graduate's name, school, and degree (if applicable) to office@ebc-edmonds.org.



Note from the Edmonds Food Bank:

"We have been providing groceries for a record number of customers so far this year. As we reach almost 1,000 households weekly, the 174 pounds of goods you collected [in March] is incredibly meaningful to us!"

Photos from Edgewood's recent Combined Youth Event



Elder Insights

"Belief" Like You Mean It... May 2024



Clint Jones Elder Board Chair

Luke!]

I am finishing up a study of the book of John this month, and this year (more than ever before) I'm impressed by the succinct presentation of Jesus and the Good News. [As a side note, I am excited to see where Stan (and others) will take us in the more-detailed gospel of

In the 1980's you may recall various people standing behind goal posts at football games. They held a sign that simply said "John 3:16." The power of the media could place the gospel into

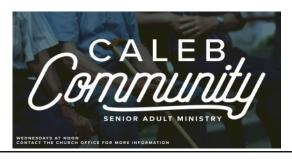
power of the media could place the gospel into millions of homes, assuming some folks looked up the scripture and were drawn in by the Holy Spirit. This was all before the internet!

While the good news from God to people is succinct enough to share on a poster board behind the goal posts, that little word "believe" has me thinking a lot recently.

Edgewood leadership wants you to be motivated to encourage nonbelievers you know and meet to believe in Jesus (Edgewood's stated focus is about "disciples making disciples").

But even after expressing a "belief" that Jesus died for our sin, you should be motivated to follow Jesus in your life, to give our selves to his service. Belief is not just "if I say this prayer I will be saved." It is a belief in the program we are handed as believers: The Great Commission. We "serve" where we are at, in our jobs, marriages, and families — and at our church. Our Great Commission Judaea is with our neighbors and community connections with the World.

Thank You for reading this far; I am encouraging the Edgewood Community to stop and decide if your "belief" meets the intended definition of John 3:16 "belief." Most of us are years and years past our new birth, which included that "prayer of salvation," perhaps a baptism, and a commitment to follow Jesus. As "Disciples Making Disciples" we need to regularly check the health of our service to our Lord and Savior.



Caleb Community, May 2024

It is hard to believe it is May already. When I got up this morning it was 40 degrees and raining. Brrr. I have friends in the Southeast and they are seeing highs in the upper 80's with high humidity.

As we look forward to May we have a few things going in our senior's group. On May 15 we will be recognizing Armed Forces Day with a special meal. We are going to make and serve an old chow hall favorite, Creamed Beef on Toast, and scrambled eggs. Still working on a dessert to go with it. If you have someone who has not visited before and has any kind of connection with the military, past or present, invite them to come. In addition to the food, we will be putting on a special program that focuses on military service.

We have started a new RightNow video series this month featuring Francis Chan. This series is *The Heart of God.* Sessions include God's Heart is Holy, God's Heart is Merciful, God's Heart is Gracious, God's Heart is Loving, God's Heart is Just and concludes with God's Heart if Faithful. In addition to the short teaching video, we enjoy a time of discussion and spend time in prayer together in small groups around each table.

With no May birthdays to celebrate, we have instead planned our Armed Forces Day recognition.

As we have done for a few years now we will continue to meet through the summer. Looking out to August, Shirley has invited us to have a potluck at her home. More details on that later.

We meet each Wednesday at noon in the Junction. We start by enjoying our brown-bag lunches topped by a special treat provided by one of the members of the group. We then have our lesson or whatever program we have planned then we spend some time in prayer. We welcome anyone who has 90 minutes free and would enjoy a time of Christian fellowship. Call Randy if you have any questions.

Ministerio Hispano



Spanish-Speaking Pastor















