

# EAST MOUNTAIN GOOD NEWS

## Special Centennial Edition 1911-2011

OCTOBER 2011

### Under Construction 100 Years And Counting

On Saturday, September 16, 1911, twenty-three men, women and children gathered together to form East Mountain Missionary Baptist Church. The record says, "After scripture reading and prayer., Bro. F.G. Roark was elected moderator and S.Y. Tuttle, clerk... Then they extended to each other the right hand of fellowship," and a church was born. Pastors were

elected annually and Bro. Roark was the first to have that position.

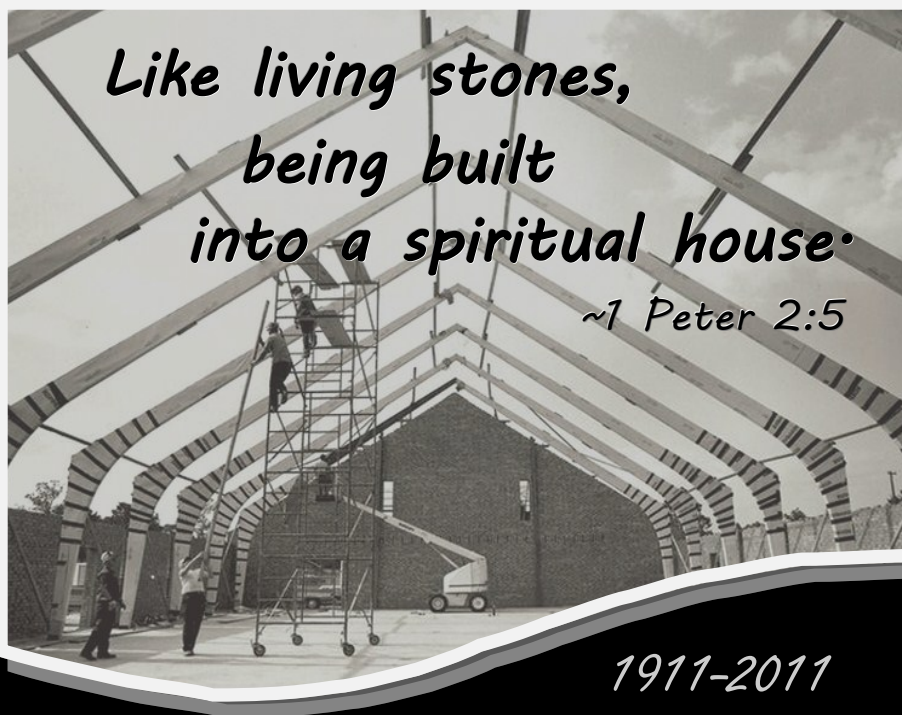
In 1925 the first building was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt immediately with volunteer labor. Records say that in the early days, baptisms were held on Sunday afternoons in Charlie Shelton's pond. A brick building was built in 1934 and that same year the church voted to join the Southern

Baptist Convention. The little rural church began to grow and by February 1945, the Sunday School enrollment had grown to 178.

Bro. Bill Blankenship was called as pastor in September 1950 and served for three years. Bro. Roye Blackmon followed, and served as pastor until 1958. During his tenure, in 1956, EMBC left the Pittsburgh Baptist Association and joined the Gregg Baptist Association. Women's Ministry began during the 1950's, when the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) became very active in many areas of mission work.

In October, 1958, Bro. Billy Baggett came as pastor. A new educational building was built in 1959. This building serves us today with classrooms for children, a men's class, a ladies class, and the nursery. The record also says that, "In October of 1959 an intensive soul-winning campaign brought about a large increase in baptisms for the year and the church was recognized for this achievement by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Bro. Aubrey Pate was called as pastor in June, 1965. During his pastorate of nineteen years, East Mountain had many milestones beginning with a completely remodeled auditorium during his first year. A new focus on music and youth (continued on page 5)



*Like living stones,  
being built  
into a spiritual house.*

*~1 Peter 2:5*

*1911-2011*

*East Mountain Baptist Church*

## From Our Youth Minister Gara Handorf

As I sat down to write this, I was at a complete loss. This is supposed to be about celebrating 100 years of East Mountain Baptist Church's ministry. I must admit, I feel very under qualified to write such an article. After all, there are so many people that have been faithful members here for a very long time. In fact, many older members were even raised in this church and still attend to this day. They could give wonderful testimony and accounts of church activities from days gone by. Though, I was raised only a mile from here, my wife and I have only been members here for about a year and a half.

The crazy thing is, when I really began to think about my life before East Mountain Baptist, I realized that this little church played a major role in my past. My father was the music director at my church and he was also good friends with Mark Melton. Because of this, our choirs would regularly team up to do Christmas programs. I still remember playing in the big attic space (now classrooms) behind the balcony while my parents practiced with the choir. I remember R.A. basketball tournaments in the gym. I remember attending VBS with Bro. Dick Lindsey. I remember

*"... this little church played a major role in my past."*

coming with my friends from school to lock-ins with Mike Ward. I remember, on one occasion, visiting with my mom for a Sunday evening meal. The youth minister gave a brief devotional that night. On the way home, my wife looked at me and said "You could do that, you know". That's when I really began to see what ministry God was calling me to. Sometime later, I remember talking with Paul Bryant about the possibility of becoming an intern. I remember getting a visit from Bro. Wes when my youngest, McClane, was born and I remember getting a letter telling us the whole church was praying for him when he had open-heart surgery.

As it turns out, even though I didn't attend this church until I was 28, it was a part of my life long before then because I was a part of its community. I didn't have to be a member of this church for this church to be a minister to me. I was a part of God's family and that was enough to be a part of your family. We were loved and appreciated before we got here and I think that speaks volumes for East Mountain Baptist. I believe the reason it can celebrate 100 years is because it has continuously shown this same love to this community. As long as East Mountain Baptist continues to submit to the will of God, God will continue to bless it and in turn, bless the community of East Mountain for another 100 years.

## From Our Music Minister Aaron Handorf

What a great opportunity and privilege it is to be writing to the community of EMBC. It is a very uncommon event that so many people can be a part of the great history that we have experienced over the past years. Most of us have seen the turn of a new century, a new millennia, and now we are able to gather together in just a few short weeks to celebrate 100 years of GOD's blessing on our church. It has been an absolute joy to serve alongside so many wonderful people of GOD. We, as the church, have seen many things over the course of the last 100 years such as: great revivals, growing in maturity of our church, and the styles that seem to fade in and out so quickly. If there's one thing we can depend on, it's change. However, I am very grateful that GOD is not one of those changes. The only reason why we have been established for so long is because GOD has always been the cornerstone for this church. Sure we have lost focus at times, but GOD is the GOD of second chances. I certainly do appreciate the love and support the church has always had toward the music program and believe that GOD has much greater things in store for us all. I am honored, as we all are, that we can celebrate the birth and continued success of GOD's church here at East Mountain. Thank you all so much for your obedience and service to the Lord.

### Appearing Soon!

 *Audrey Kate Handorf* 

*Join us as we celebrate with her parents  
Aaron and Susan Handorf  
Saturday, October 1 from 10 A.M. - Noon  
Baby Shower Brunch in the Gym  
Selections at Target and Babies R Us*

### Where do you go to get....

the latest calendar updates?  
details on events?  
Family Night Supper Menu and Reservations?  
Newsletter Online?

[www.eastmountainbaptist.org](http://www.eastmountainbaptist.org)

# From Our Children's Minister

Rob Bowen

100 years! Just think of everything that can happen over a period of 100 years. Buildings, people, and cultures change. Some changes are gradual and nearly undetectable, while others are instant and very drastic. Some good, some not so good. The success of change is most clearly revealed through historical review, because it is often difficult to evaluate as it occurs. Whether or not we accept it, we all change in a variety of ways.....I used to have hair! Thankfully, God does not change!

To a child, 100 years is an eternity. To God, it's but a small speck of time and space within His eternity. The impact of the church is eternal, provided the church remains viable. Jesus promised us that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church. Unfortunately, many local gatherings of His church over the years have allowed time and circumstances to dim their lights, or worse yet, completely extinguish them. Thank God for those who have gone before us to ensure that East Mountain Baptist Church carried out the Great Commission and remained vibrant. May God be with us and grant us the grace and strength that will enable us to pass that torch off to the next generation.

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## Profile Of A Servant

Carole Dailey

If you have been a member of EMBC anytime during the last six decades, you most likely have been blessed to know June Reynolds, a member of EMBC for sixty-one years. Raised a preacher's daughter, June accepted the Lord as her savior at the young age of five. She remembers, "We moved to Chicago, IL where dad attended Moody Bible College. We went to Moody Bible Church and I went to Children's Church there. Every Sunday they used the wordless book to explain salvation, then my dad led me to the Lord at home."

June made her way to East Mountain Baptist Church on Labor Day weekend, 1950, when her father, Bro. Bill Blankenship, was called as pastor. June was a freshman entering East Mountain High School. During her sophomore year she met her best friend's big brother, David Reynolds, and it was true love. They married at the end of her junior year, May 30, 1953. June graduated valedictorian from East Mountain High School, May 1954. They had three children, Steve, Terry, and Rhonda who all grew up in East Mountain Baptist Church.

During her sixty-one years here, June has served in several capacities. Using her gift of teaching, she has taught Sunday

*...they built  
both churches  
and missionary  
homes...*

*Are YOU one of EMBC's  
"living stones" past or present?  
We want you to be our special guest  
at our Centennial Celebration on  
October 16, 2011  
Join us for coffee and Bible Study with old  
friends in Sunday School Class at 9:30 a.m.  
A Celebration of Praise & Worship  
begins at 10:45a.m.  
Bro. Ken Brumley will deliver the message.  
A Barbeque Lunch follows about noon.  
Then more celebration about 1:00 p.m.  
This is a special day and we want  
you to join us!  
To help in planning, please contact us and let us  
know if you will be coming.  
903-759-2820  
eastmountainbaptist@gmail.com  
www.eastmountainbaptist.org/contactus*

School classes for high school girls, young married couples, and a ladies' class, where she continues to teach today. She and David have been involved in the music ministry through the years; David, singing and leading the music, and June, playing the piano and organ for over forty years. She has also been a faithful witness and had numerous opportunities to serve as deacon's wife.

In addition to serving at home, David and June have served the Lord through church building both here in the United States and in Japan. In 1972, they went to the Rio Grande Valley with EMBC on a summer mission trip and continued to go every summer for about 10 years. In 1975 they began going to Ohio and to other states building churches. The call to missions in Japan came in 1993 and there they built both churches and missionary homes through 1999. June says that meeting the Japanese Christians was exciting. "Even though we couldn't communicate through language, we had the understanding that we were brothers and sisters in Christ," she said. This is the first year since 1972 they have not gone on a building mission trip.

When asked what was the most

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# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Handoff Baby Shower Brunch</i> 10 a.m. to noon
2 <i>Lord's Supper (A.M. Service)</i> Sunday Schedule	3	4 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	5 <i>Family Night</i>	6	7	8 <b>Work Day</b> 8 a.m.
9 Sunday Schedule	10	11 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	12 <i>Family Night</i>	13	14	15
16 Centennial Celebration	17	18 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	19 <i>Family Night</i>	20 Joyful Traditions Planning Mtg 6 p.m. (Rm 125)	21	22
23 Sunday Schedule	24	25 EMBERS Game Night 6 p.m. <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	26 <i>Family Night</i>	24	28	29
30 55 Hour: Karen Tolleson Missionary to China Sunday Schedule	31					

## Under Construction

(continued from page 3)

ministry began with the calling of Milton Walker, EMBC's first full-time Music and Youth Minister. In 1973, annual mission trips to the Rio Grande Valley began. One trip took more than half of the average church attendees! The other half cooked meals and stored them in a large deep freeze which was carried on a trailer all the way to South Texas to feed hungry church builders and Vacation Bible School leaders. This same year, Ken Brumley came as Music and Youth Minister and a new bus ministry was started. In 1980 the new sanctuary was built by church members and new friends made on mission trips.

Since then, we have been shepherded by Bro. Dick Lindsey, Bro. John Harp, Dr. Ray Tenpenny and Bro. Wes Sherman. Each of these men have poured their hearts into helping to build this spiritual house, bringing the vision God gave them.

Today, we have a thriving children's program led by Bro. Rob Bowen, Children's Minister. It features a vibrant children's church and AWANA program. The mission outreach to the community comes through our After-School Program for AWANA where we reach many unchurched children, teaching them to write the Word of God on their hearts through scripture memory.

Gara Handorf, Youth Minis-

ter, leads our youth students to be "Rooted" in the Word so they can face life challenges and adventures with assurance and confidence that comes from intimately knowing the Savior.

Aaron Handorf plans a music service of hymns and praise and reminds us that true worship comes when we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Dr. Roy Edgemon is leading us to examine ourselves and our church, to determine our strengths and our sins, to begin to understand where God may be leading us as a congregation.

For one hundred years, East Mountain Baptist church has been under construction — quite a long building project by man's standards. God has been building this church one living stone at a time. It is not about the bricks and mortar,

*God has been  
building this church  
one living stone  
at a time.*

but the souls that have been saved, nurtured, fed, loved, and matured. He is building us into a spiritual house so

that we can offer up spiritual sacrifices that will be acceptable to God through His Son Jesus Christ! So let's get ready for the next one hundred years and pray as one, "Dear Father, may You find us faithful!"



## Profile Of A Servant

(continued from page 3)

exciting thing she'd seen at EMBC, June didn't hesitate to say that it was seeing the current facility built in 1980 and then paid for in just three years. Since then the church has been debt-free.

June stressed that she believes EMBC's biggest strength is LOVE. She feels she can count on her broth-

ers and sisters here if she were to need anything at all. We thank you, June, for your many years of service at EMBC.



*"...EMBC's  
biggest strength  
is love."*

## Recipe of the Month

The cookbooks are in! Most of the pre-ordered cookbooks have been distributed and sales will begin September 28 for those of you who missed out on the pre-order. We have less than 250 cookbooks so get yours now. Many of you who pre-ordered will be back for more since you have seen how beautiful they are. We have chosen a wonderful soup recipe for this October Special Centennial Edition newsletter. Serve with a salad of mixed greens and toasted garlic baguette rounds. It is easy, quick, delicious and great for a cool fall supper!

### Lasagne Soup

*from Brandy Bridges Bonner*

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 large bell pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 (14.5 oz.) cans reduced sodium beef broth
- 2 (14.5 oz.) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 c. frozen corn
- 1/4 c. tomato paste
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 1/2 c. uncooked spiral pasta
- 1/2 c. parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan, cook the first four ingredients over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Drain. Stir in broth, tomatoes, tomato sauce, corn, tomato paste, Italian seasoning and pepper. Bring to a boil. Stir in pasta. Return to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until pasta is tender. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Yield: 8 servings.

## Staff

**Dr. Roy Edgemon**  
Pastor

**Gara Handorf**  
Youth Minister

**Aaron Handorf**  
Worship Minister

**Rob Bowen**  
Children's Minister

**Jodi Smith**  
Ministerial Assistant

**Teresa Sanders**  
**Kerah Smith**  
Nursery Workers

## Deacons of the Week

### October 2-15

David Jones (903-374-1290)  
John Pitman (903-734-5029)

### October 16-29

Shane Mayhan (903-734-1286)  
Mike Pritchett (903-734-1179)



## East Mountain Baptist Church

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Gilmer TX 75645

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www.eastmountainbaptist.org  
903-759-2820

## Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAYS

9:30 am

Sunday School

10:45 am

Worship Service

Children's Church in the gym

5:00 am

Adult Choir Practice

6:00 pm

Evening Service

Children's Choir

### WEDNESDAYS

3:30-5:30 pm

After-School Program  
(K-6th grade during school year)

4:30 pm

Kids Meal

(Part of After-School Program)

5:30-6:30 pm

Adult & Student Meal

5:50-7:30 pm

AWANA

6:30-7:30 pm

Youth Service

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

*Like living stones, being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. ~I Peter 2:5a*