



Special Edition! Oak LEAF

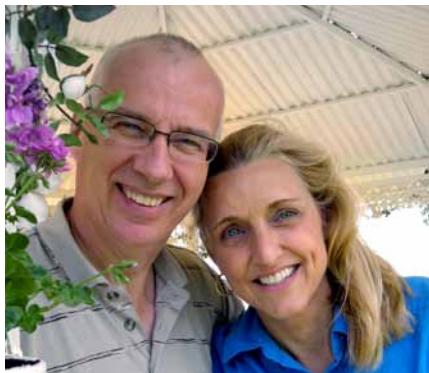
NOVEMBER 2010

VOL. 29 | NO. 5

East White Oak Bible Church | 11922 E 2000 North Rd. Carlock, IL 61725 | 309.454.3833 | www.ewo.org

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Introducing **SCOTT BOERCKEL** CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR PASTOR



As early as 6th grade, God put the pastorate on Scott Boerckel's heart. But, it wasn't until he was a couple of years into an industrial engineering career that he started pursuing his call. Today he is the candidate to become the sixth Senior Pastor in the 118-year history of East White Oak Bible Church.

Robert Scott Boerckel (pronounced Berkle) currently is the Senior Pastor at Wildwood Baptist Church, East Moline, IL, where he has served since 1996. However, his first stop after earning a B.S. in ceramics engineering from the University of Illinois in 1978 was as a quality control engineer for Vitreous Steel Products in Nappanee, IN.

Scott found a church to attend in the area—Community Gospel Church in Bremen—but life was taking him in new directions. He met and eventually married Carol in 1980 at Community Gospel, her home church. He also knew he wanted to go to seminary, so he enrolled in Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN in 1981, while continuing to work. He soon confirmed God's call to be a pastor and left the workforce.

Scott concentrated on earning his Th.M. in Old Testament Language and Literature, completing degree work in 1986 magna cum laude. In 1983-84 he studied History of Ancient Israel at Jerusalem University College in Jerusalem, Israel. The Community Gospel pastor resigned while Scott was in Israel, and when he returned to the States

continued on page 2

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
SCOTT BOERCKEL WILL PREACH
IN BOTH MORNING SERVICES

Plan to return at 6:30 PM that evening.
Scott Boerckel will briefly share his testimony and philosophy of ministry, and there will be time for questions and answers. A reception will follow in the Gym.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3

Note from the Elders

Page 4

Search Committee Process

Page 6

The Role of Preaching in the 21st Century

Page 9

Ministry Mission

Page 10

Opportunities to Meet Scott & Carol Boerckel

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 21

Plan to attend a Congregational Meeting after the second service on November 21 to vote on issuing a call to Scott Boerckel as East White Oak's Senior Pastor.

continued from page 1

he became the Senior Pastor there while completing his last year at Grace.

Scott served until 1991 at Community Gospel, where today former EWO Associate Pastor Mike Fanning is the Senior Pastor. Scott spent a year as interim pastor at Bremen Bible Church before heading to La Paz Community Church, La Paz, Bolivia from 1992 until 1996 when he took the position at Wildwood Baptist.

Scott was not looking to leave Wildwood when EWO contacted him earlier this year. Seeking referrals for the EWO position, interim senior pastor Larry

Van Gundy sought input from Ron Klassen of the Rural Home Missionary Association, a long-time EWO friend. Ron passed the request to others he felt knew EWO well, including Scott's brother Ritch Boerckel, an RHMA board



The Boerckel Family: from left Joel, Monica, Bethany, Mark, Carol, Scott and Wyn

on heaven and hell and knew he needed to trust Jesus to go to heaven. He grew up in Peoria. His family attended Grace Presbyterian Church, where his father was an active leader and teacher.

Scott's recent sermons are available at www.wildwoodchurch.com

member with Larry, and previously with former EWO Pastor Jeff VanGoethem. Ritch, who is Senior Pastor at Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria, provided some names of men for consideration, one of which was Scott's. He agreed to consider our overture out of obedience to God, but that was delayed for a time after Scott's father passed away this spring.

The connection to EWO developed slowly, but surely. The Search Committee was drawn to Scott's commitment to exegetical preaching and his relational qualities. Seven members of the committee were able to visit Wildwood to hear Scott preach and experience the church environment (this occurred over three separate occasions). Scott was drawn to EWO's rich heritage of Bible preaching and teaching.

Scott has a distinct recollection of his salvation experience at the age of four, when he responded to teaching

He and Carol have been married 30 years and have three sons, the youngest of which is a sophomore in college while the other two are married. Scott turned 54 years of age on Sept. 30.

Carol is a native of Mishawaka, IN. She has a nursing degree, worked for several years and served as a missionary nurse with SEND International in Alaska for two years prior to marrying Scott. Carol has a graduate degree in Bible from Multnomah University. She has not practiced nursing since 1992. She is dedicated to evangelism and Bible study. She is a niece to Rod and Vera Wallin, whom many at EWO know. Their daughter, Susan Simmons, is Carol's cousin.

They enjoy serving as program directors every summer at an InterVarsity pastor family camp in Michigan. They also spend time overseas every year teaching and speaking at missionary field conferences. 

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

Dear members and friends of East White Oak,

It is with praise to God that the Elders wholeheartedly recommend to you Scott Boerckel as the candidate for the Senior Pastor position at East White Oak Bible Church. The Senior Pastor Search Committee was unified and enthusiastic in its recommendation to the Elders.

Scott has a love and passion for God's Word and for the people of His flock, as well as a number of years of experience in ministry and pastoral service, that we think will be a great benefit to the ongoing ministries of EWO. We strongly encourage you to participate in the opportunities to hear Scott preach, and to meet him and Carol during the upcoming activities. We also encourage you to share your thoughts and questions with any of the Elders as we go through this step in the process of calling a pastor.

The Elders want to extend our appreciation to the Senior Pastor Search Committee for their time, effort,

prayers, and work in serving us in the process of looking for God's will and His man for East White Oak. We know that they went into this process with both excitement and trepidation almost a year ago, and for all of this, we give our heartfelt thanks for a job well done!

We want to thank the congregation for your prayers and patience as we all waited on God's timing. We are grateful for your continuing ministry work and for the support you have shown for our staff pastors as they filled some gaps and did some extra things to serve us during this time of transition. Calling a pastor is a serious matter in the life of a church and much work and prayer has gone into the process to this point. I encourage each of you to fully participate in the activities of the candidating weekend and to pray over our decision. Be sure to pray for Wildwood Baptist Church that God's will would be done for them as well. Pray that we will show grace and Christ's love as we enter this new phase of the history of God's work at East White Oak Bible Church.

In Christ,
Dave Osenga, Board Chairman



BOERCKELS *at a glance*

SCOTT

Current Position

Senior Pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church, East Moline, IL since 1996
www.wildwoodchurch.com

Prior Ministry Experience

Senior Pastor La Paz Community Church, La Paz, Bolivia, 1992-1996; Interim Pastor Bremen (IN) Bible Church, 1991-1992; Senior Pastor Community Gospel Church, Bremen, IN, 1986-1991

Education

Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN, Th.M., magna cum laude, 1986; Jerusalem University College, Jerusalem, Israel, completed graduate course work; University of Illinois, B.S., Ceramic Engineering, 1978

continued on page 5

SEARCH COMMITTEE PROCESS

Shortly after the Elders announced the make up of the Senior Pastor Search Committee, each member found a plastic sandwich bag in their church mailbox containing some candy and a small piece of paper with the following note, "I am encouraged to see you be a part of the Search Committee. I will be praying for you."

If ever the prayers of others in your fellowship are coveted, taking on the charge of filling a Senior Pastor vacancy is such an occasion. This is a unique undertaking, far removed from a typical employment matter.

The demands of the job are daunting: communicator of God's Word; nurturing the spiritual lives of hundreds of congregants; performing vast administrative duties; representing the church to the community at large; and counseling people through the most personal issues of

zational type gatherings, determined to meet regularly on the fourth Monday of each month and at other times as needed. The Committee has met as a whole (or close to it) nearly 30 times over the past 12 months.

A job description and various informational materials about EWO's distinctives and the community were posted to the church website for potential candidates to reference. The opening also was posted with several seminary alumni placement services, and contacts were made with ministry acquaintances of EWO seeking referrals.

Seventeen formal applications were received. It is interesting to note this search was not only countrywide, but international. Among those the Committee had a particular interest in were two serving on the mission field, albeit not in traditional missionary roles (foreign seminary

Our discussions often included reminders of our reliance on God and our prayers always sought His wisdom and discernment. In humility, we regularly entrusted our work to Him and His timetable.

life. These responsibilities would cause most to cower at the very thought of pursuing such a position. Who would consider such a thing, save for God's calling?

It has been the rich privilege of the committee to seek the connection between this place of ministry and God's man. Our discussions often included reminders of our reliance on God and our prayers always sought His wisdom and discernment. In humility, we regularly entrusted our work to Him and His timetable.

The Committee solicited feedback from the Elders and Deacons and from its members to compile a profile of the next East White Oak Senior Pastor through a list of desirable attributes. The Committee held several organi-

administrator/instructor/pastor in Africa and church pastor in South America).

Seven of those submitting applications were interviewed and four applicants were invited to complete a written doctrinal questionnaire. The committee was able to hear three of these men and four applicants total preach in person and took advantage of numerous resources available through the internet.

It was determined to meet face-to-face with three of the applicants and spouses. Following those meetings and contemplation in prayer over a matter of days, the committee determined to recommend Scott Boerckel to the Elders. 

the SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Members of the Senior Pastor Search Committee were appointed by the Elders

Rex Gearhart, Jeff Fritzen, Co-chairmen

Russ Bauer | Diane Fahrenkrug | Adam Garey | Donna Osenga

Eric Rhodes | Kris Seifert | Peter Spychalla | Larry Van Gundy

BOERCKELS

at a glance, continued

SCOTT

Born

September 30, 1956 in Peoria, IL

Married

Carol Klopfenstein, August 23, 1980

Hobbies

Working out, reading, table tennis, basketball, scuba diving, sports radio

Favorite books

Desiring God by John Piper; *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer; anything by C.S. Lewis; *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen; *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey

Interesting fact

Younger brothers are involved in ministry:
– Ritch, senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Peoria
– Jim, a missionary with International Teams

CAROL

Ministry interests

Evangelism, Bible study, mentoring, water color art

Education/ministry

Degree in nursing, worked in critical care, surgery and mental health; served as missionary nurse in Alaska with SEND International; has not practiced nursing since 1992; graduate degree in Bible from Multnomah University; currently a water aerobics instructor

Interesting fact

Niece of Rod and Vera Wallin, cousin to Susan Simmons

Photos of Scott and Carol from a trip to South Africa in 2008.



continued on page 9

the role of **PREACHING** *in the* *twenty-first century*



We live in an increasingly secular culture—a culture where people choose to live as though God does not exist. Even if folks believe in a god (or gods), the preponderant tide of our culture sweeps us up into living as practical deists. God, in most minds, is not relevant to life as most people are living it.

How does the church of Jesus Christ respond to such a crisis? One way is to ignore it. It is easy to create our own little ghetto of community and content ourselves with the thought that the world “out there” is wrong while we are right. Another way is to join the crisis. That is, affirm that the culture is somewhat justified in its assumption of the irrelevancy of God and then attempt to show His relevancy by meaningful experiences. Mostly, this is done by appearing to be as culturally savvy as we can be and then toss in a few “God” words that make God look cool and relevant and attractive to modern people.

I would like to suggest that neither cultural withdrawal nor cultural embracing is the correct pathway for the church. People everywhere are facing a crisis of authority. They do not know who is in charge of this world; they have questions about what is the basis for knowing anything for sure. Even in the church, this question of authority and basis for knowledge can get confusing. The LORD of the Bible promised that such a crisis would come when people abandon Him.

Consider the following verses:

1 Samuel 3:1

“The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.”

Amos 8:11-12

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.”

Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

These texts remind us that the Word of God can get scarce when a people abandon God. In fact, I do believe that a scarcity of the Word of God is happening in our churches



today. As a prime example, some people are questioning the value of preaching in the 21st century. The pulpit is being marginalized in favor of what are termed "worship experiences." Others value preaching, but they really do not have any idea what constitutes "the Word of the LORD." This can be more dangerous, for people begin to trust what they believe to be an authoritative word from the Lord when it is anything but that.

So, what is the role of preaching in the 21st century? More importantly, how can we assure that we actually hear the "Word of the LORD" through the preaching ministry of the church?

In order to answer these questions, we need to understand that not all preaching is created equal. Of course, we immediately know that. However, it is easy to think in terms of communication skill rather than the kind of preaching when we think of "good"

Here are some examples of different kinds of preaching. All of these have been claimed to be "expository" in nature, but I do not believe that they truly can be called that.

Topical messages

These are by far the most common in churches today. This generally means that the pastor chooses a topic, builds his organizational points, and provides some Bible verses to affirm his points (the order of this sequence is sometimes altered). The danger here is that the organization of the pastor's message is not from Scripture; the content may or may not be from Scripture; and the pastor can avoid issues that he does not wish to address.

Leadership messages

This is a subgroup of the topical message. Here is where the pastor takes most of his messages in sharing his vision for the church and invites people to join that

"I would like to suggest that neither cultural withdrawal nor cultural embracing is the correct pathway for the church."

and "bad" preaching. "Good" preaching is often considered "good" because the preacher is engaging, entertaining, moving, motivational, and/or handsome and articulate. "Bad" preaching is often considered "bad" because the preacher is mundane, boring, lacking in speaking skill, and/or unattractive.

I would like to consider an alternative to these definitions. Good preaching is the right preaching of the Word of God. Bad preaching is anything else. That is pretty simple, but it is more profound than we might notice at first glance, for it helps to hone exactly what a pastor must do if there is to be the authority of God in his preaching and not merely the force of his personality and rhetorical skill on display.

How does the pastor preach in such a way as to reveal the authority of God Himself? The answer is by preaching from the text of Scripture. Now, lots of people claim to affirm what is called "expository preaching," but it seems to me that there is a lot of confusion about what expository preaching is.

vision. Frequently, this involves a stewardship or financial campaign. The danger here is that the church loses perspective; it can seem that the only truly relevant thing in the universe is our local church.

Politically oriented messages

The pastor uses the pulpit to trumpet a political agenda. This is done both by politically conservative and politically liberal pastors, and if the people of the church have the same views, this kind of preaching is very popular because everyone is confirmed in their views. While pastors should not avoid political issues, the danger of this approach is a departure from the purpose of the church, a communication that the Gospel is intended only for a certain political persuasion to consider, and the development of an "us vs. them" attitude toward folks who disagree.

Theological messages

This is a form of preaching where a text is selected and a doctrine is identified somewhere in the text. Then, the preacher leaves that particular text to show all the

other places in the Bible where this topic is addressed. While there is an important place for systematic theology, even in preaching, this also has dangers. The preacher will have the temptation to focus on certain theological points and avoid others. Another hazard is the tendency for each text of Scripture to be subject to systematic theology only rather than also allowing our systematic theology to be informed by the text of Scripture.

While there is a place in limited instances for each of these kinds of messages, none of these can carry the weight of “the Word of the LORD” over the long term. “The Word of the LORD” is the kind of authority that we need in the pulpits of our churches. The above forms

particular passage of Scripture relates to the exaltation of Christ as Savior, Lord, and King. This is not by attempting to squeeze some allegorical Christology out of every passage. Rather, it is to show that all of life is under the authority of Jesus as King and true eternal life is “to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.”

Just as I have shared my responsibility as a preacher, you dear folks at East White Oak have some very important responsibilities. Your responsibility is to see that you are fed from the word of God and so to call a pastor who will indeed preach the Word. Your responsibility is to help your pastor keep his preaching ministry as the first priority of his work and that all

“The pastor is called to present a message of hope that the world will find no where else.”

of preaching are not what Paul meant when he admonished Timothy, “Preach the Word.” People everywhere are starving and thirsting, as the Amos passage above reminds us, for some real revelation from God Himself about Himself.

So, if I am called as your pastor, the nature of preaching that you will receive is taking a book of the Bible, going through each text of the book, explaining the meaning by declaring with both encouragement and exhortation what the passage is saying to us, not just choosing the texts that we like, but also taking on those challenging texts that rarely get preached because they are difficult (I have noted that the Old Testament and the narratives of the Bible are too frequently ignored). This will not always be pleasant at the moment, for the “Word of the LORD” itself is not always pleasant at the moment. However, it is so very good for us, not to hear the words of fallible men, but the eternal word of the living God. Then, we trust the Holy Spirit to work in all of us to take God’s Word and apply it to our hearts so that the Lord is glorified in our lives.

Part of an expository ministry is the exaltation of Christ. Every part of the Bible leads us in some fashion to the exaltation of Christ as Savior, Lord, and King. So, as I preach, I attempt to lead people to understand how any

else falls into place behind this priority. I am praying for you in this responsibility.

The world is hurting. It longs for authority and finds none. It seeks guidance, and a cacophony of voices cry out that all directions are equally good. The pastor is called to present a message of hope that the world will find nowhere else. He is called not to add his opinion to the cacophony of voices; he is to give people the very mind of God. This is not always popular, but it is the primary act of Christian worship—knowing what God has said and walking, even revelling, in it.

“The Levites . . . instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.” Nehemiah 8:7-8

This is what I love to do; I believe that God made me for this purpose. My heart is full of joy that the Lord Jesus would pour out His grace to allow me to proclaim His wonderful name.

With fond anticipation to meet you and enjoy the rich fellowship of God’s people, Scott Boerckel

MINISTRY MISSION

By Scott Boerckel

My vision for ministry is to reveal God and His Word graciously and joyously in order to attract and raise up a group of people energized to follow Jesus Christ.

I desire to reveal God to people. This means that my aim is always to be God-centered and God exalting. The God who actually exists is very different from the god of people's (even Christian people's) imaginations. The real God is worthy of being known and being made known (Hmm, that sounds a LOT like EWO's motto!). It is the grand joy of my life to reveal the true God to people.

I desire to reveal God's Word to people. The Bible is God's Word. God has made Himself known on the pages of Scripture. So, if I am to reveal God, I must go to the source of that revelation — the Word of God. The focus of my preaching is upon the exposition of the texts of the Bible. There are other kinds of preaching, but the passion of my heart is to make clear the texts of Scripture. God has called me to do this; I could not imagine not doing

it. This is a stewardship that I must discharge wherever I go in this world. I praise the Lord for the privilege.

I desire to do these things graciously and joyously. We live in serious times. We face many trials and troubles. However, we are called to a life of grace toward others and joy within our hearts. Even when we are brought into holy reverence before the Almighty, that fear of the Lord ought to bring joy to our hearts and a desire to extend grace to others. I aim to reflect these two virtues in my ministry.

The goal of this vision for ministry is to attract and raise up a group of people energized to follow Jesus Christ. I believe that many people will reject the revealing of the true God, but I also believe that a great host of folks will be attracted to the true God. The goal of my ministry is both to attract and raise up people. By "raise up," I mean that they will be equipped to know and love the Lord and to serve Him wholeheartedly. They become energized by means of the revelation of God and His Word, and that energy is directed to following the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of life.

I do enjoy being a pastor. The greatest joy in my ministry life is the opportunity to share God's Word and see people come to Christ, be built up in their faith, and then lead others to faith in Christ. What a privilege to glorify and worship the Lord in this way! 



BOERCKELS *at a glance, continued*

OUR THREE SONS

Joel (26)

Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA, wife Monica

Mark (24)

financial analyst with Carmax, Marietta, GA, wife Bethany

Wyn (20)

sophomore at Washington and Lee University in Virginia



Introducing SCOTT BOERCKEL

CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR PASTOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:00 & 10:30 AM

Scott Boerckel will preach in both morning services.

6:30 PM

Everyone is encouraged to attend! Scott Boerckel will briefly share his testimony and philosophy of ministry, and there will be time for questions and answers. A reception will follow in the Gym.



11922 E. 2000 North Rd.,
Carlock, IL 61725



*You're invited to meet SCOTT BOERCKEL
our candidate for Senior Pastor at East White Oak*

In an effort to provide an opportunity for everyone to meet Scott and Carol Boerckel, specific groups are invited per the schedule below. To equalize the number at each session, please make every effort to attend the session identified by your work at EWO. However, if you have a conflict with a particular time, please attend an alternative event.

Friday, November 12 | 2:00 PM | Meet & Greet | Fireside Room

Who's Invited? Senior Saints

Saturday, November 13 | 8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast with Questions/Answers | Banquet Room

Who's Invited? (spouses are included) ABF Leaders, ABF Teachers, Youth Ministry Staff, Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Staff, AWANA Directors, Senior Saints Leaders, DivorceCare/Boundaries Leaders, Women's Ministry Committee

Saturday, November 13 | 2:00 PM | Coffee & Cookies with Questions/Answers | Banquet Room

Who's Invited? (all spouses are included) Missions Committee, Prayer Corps, Worship Leaders, Choir, Small Group Leaders, Outreach Committee

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND A SESSION.

Contact the church office (454-3833) or e-mail Monica Ball (mball@ewo.org). Childcare is available by request.