

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

March 1, 2021

Lent is in full swing and Easter is just around the corner. We are seasonally situated in my expository series on the *Gospel of Mark*. Depending on who you ask, Mark wrote either 15 or 16 chapters to his Gospel of Jesus Christ. One third of this book is dedicated to the last week of Jesus' life! Indeed, this year I will wrap up this series, so it seems fitting that we get to spend an entire year (minus summer—but more on that in a later article) on Holy Week!

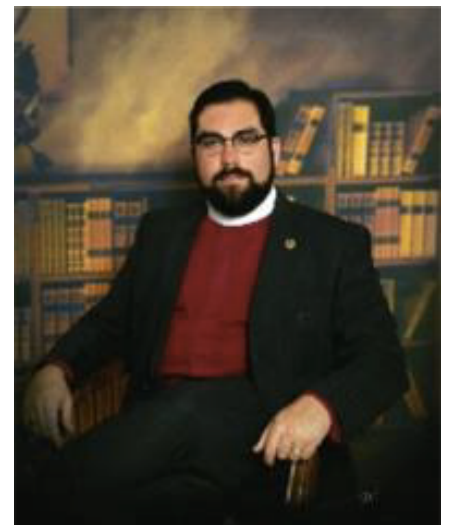
Traditionally, Lent is the 40 days before Easter and Holy Week—for obvious reasons—is the week between Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday. But 40 days is hardly enough time to digest the fullness that is Holy Week. Therefore, we are blessed to take the time to stroll through the teachings of Mark's Gospel.

I am also pleased to note that the various Bible study groups are going well. The Bible is the foundational document, not only for our theology, but also for our very lives. In this book, God has breathed out his plan and his will. I am very excited and honored to continue to share with you the inestimable value of God's Word. My hope is to encourage more of you to become engaged with Scripture. This pandemic has changed the way we interact with people—sometimes for ill, sometimes for good—but it can never change the way we interact with God. For the time being, I will continue to post recordings of studies that take place in the sanctuary. But I strongly urge each of you to consider coming to a mid-week study. And I am in the process of discerning more opportunities for discipleship. So, if something doesn't fit your schedule now, definitely let me know and be on the lookout for other things in the near future. I consider it a great privilege to be your pastor and want to continue to honor my pledge and my call to serve you.

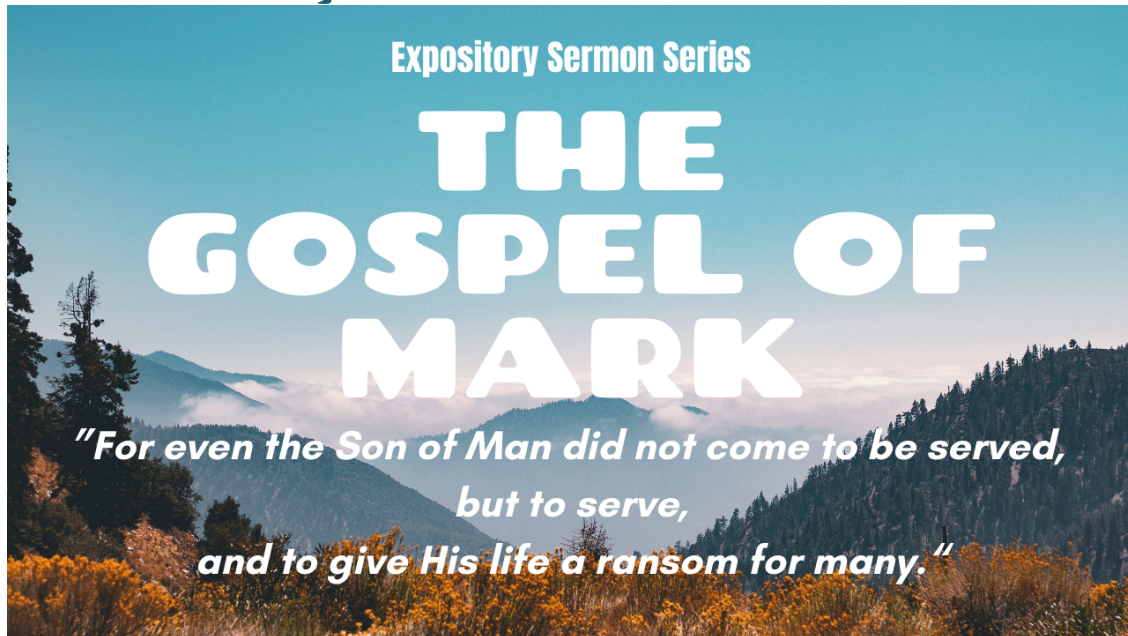
Grace and Peace,
Ed Soto

Rev. Eduardo Soto, Jr., PASTOR
434-369-5286, office / 334-237-1895,
mobile

ALTAVISTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
707 BROAD STREET - P O BOX 126 - ALTAVISTA, VA 24517
434-369-5286 - Office phone - 434-369-1101 - FAX
office@altapres.org - email - www.altapres.org - web site



Sunday Sermons This Month



March 7th • Third Sunday in Lent

Mark 12:13-17

“A Question on Taxes”

March 14th • Fourth Sunday in Lent

Guest Speaker

Pastor Steven Haley, Hat Creek Baptist Church

March 21st • Fifth Sunday in Lent

Guest speaker,

Elder Skip Wodke, Quaker Memorial

March 28th • Sixth Sunday in Lent

Mark 12:18-27

“A Question on Resurrection”

Altavista Presbyterian Church
Session highlights
February 21, 2021 meeting

- Decided to sponsor a packing party for Claire Parker End of Treatment boxes at a cost of \$1,000, which is to be taken from ACT for Mission funds.
- Reviewed the January, 2021 Treasurer's Report.
- Decided to refer the need to purchase a piano for the Sanctuary to the Stewardship Committee for their input.
- Approved minutes of the January 17, 2021 Stated Session meeting as presented.
- Called a Congregational meeting for March 28, 2021, following Worship, for the purposes of (1) electing elders for the Class of 2023 & (2) conducting the annual meeting of APC, Inc.
- Decided to hold a Good Friday service on April 2, 2021.
- Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	January-2021	YTD
Pledges	7,281	7,281
Non-Pledges	1,555	1,555
Plate Offering	12	12
Total Expenses	12,485.56	12,485.56

MARCH

Birthdays

Anniversaries

2	Susan Gilliam	
5	Betsy Soto	
9	Margaret Liebchen	
15	Kevin deBernard	
22	Dean Smith	
24	Mike Gafford	
31	Brenda Cuthbertson	
	Stephanie Moehlenkamp	



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8 AM Bible 101	2 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	3 8 AM Men's Bible Study	4 9 AM Presbytery Mtg.	5	6
7 10 AM Worship/ Children's Church Collect Two Cents- A-Meal Offering 6 PM Youth Group Mtg at the Church	8 Pastor Ed on Leave March 8-27 <u>No Bible 101</u>	9 <u>No Bible Study</u>	10 <u>No Men's Bible Study</u>	11	12	13
14 10 AM Worship/ Children's Church Rev. Steve Hailey Preaching	15 <u>No Bible 101</u>	16 <u>No Bible Study</u>	17 <u>No Men's Bible Study</u> 1 PM DAWN Board Mtg.	18	19	20
21 10 AM Worship/ Children's Church Elder Skip Wodke Preaching	22 <u>No Bible 101</u> 5:30 PM CE Mtg.	23 <u>No Bible Study</u>	24 <u>No Men's Bible Study</u> April Link Deadline	25	26	27 10 AM Lenten Worship for Adults, Youth & Children
28 10 AM Palm Sunday Worship/ Children's Church Collect Special Offering for Piano Congregational Meeting after Worship Session Meeting after Worship 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church	29 8 AM Bible 101	30 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	31 8 AM Men's Bible Study			

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Happening This Month!

*Pastor Ed will be on family leave March 8-27.
No studies will be offered at that time.*

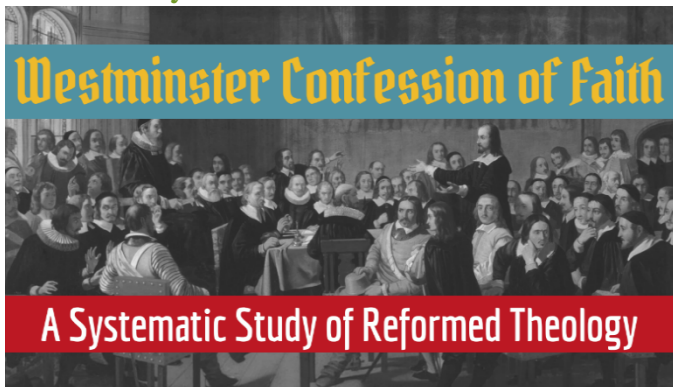
Youth Group — Mar. 7th & 28th



Youth Group meets every **Sunday at 6:00 PM** at the church. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome.

The youth continue their study of John's *Revelation of Jesus Christ*.

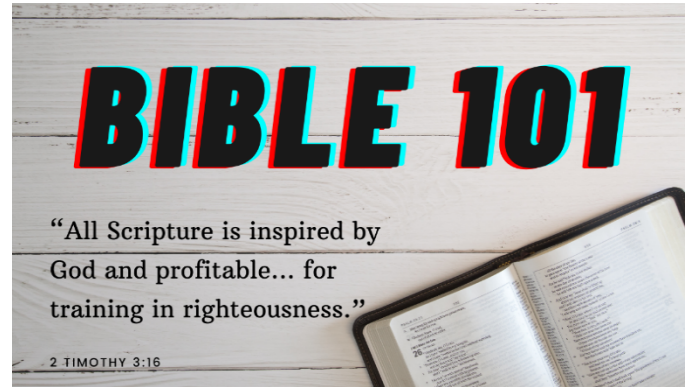
Bible Study — Feb. 2nd & 30th



Bible Study meets every **Tuesday at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join as Pastor Ed leads studies and discussions on Scripture, theology, and church history.

Bible Study continues in Reformed theology by studying the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

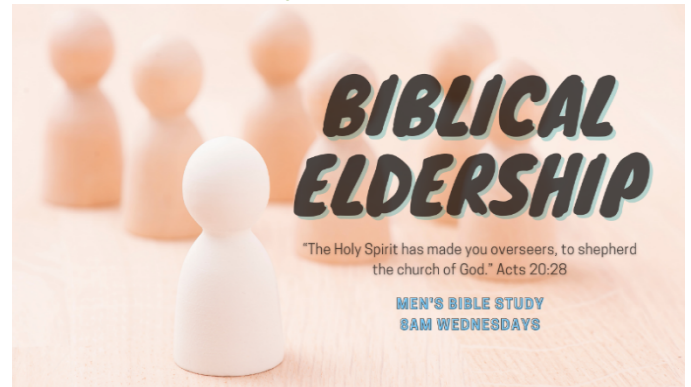
Bible101 — Feb. 1st & 29th



Bible101 meets every **Monday at 8:00 AM** in the Sunday School Room. This Bible reading group is designed for new believers.

Bible101 concludes Paul's *Letter to the Galatians* and begins Paul's *Letter to the Colossians*.

Men's Bible Study — Feb. 3rd & 31st



Men's Bible Study meets every **Wednesday at 8:00 AM** in the Sunday School Room. This new small group is geared toward empowering men to live as Christ commands.

Men's Bible study continues a series on the doctrines of biblical eldership in Paul's *Second Letter to Timothy*.

Online Services During Pandemic

As we hope for an end to the pandemic and a return to normalcy, please remember our website is a great resource.

Pastor Ed's Tuesday morning Bible continues to be recorded and posted online on Friday morning to <http://www.altapres.org/bible-studies>.

Sunday's service will continue to be recorded, and posted later that evening or early Monday. These can be found at www.altapres.org/worship-services. There you can also watch past services going back to 2017!

There is a treasure trove of previous sermons and studies on Pastor Ed's website. Check it out for more resources and ways to connect with him: <https://revsoto.weebly.com/>.

You can also interact with us by liking our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/altavistapc) and sharing posts, pictures, and prayers.



Betsy and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who put together and came out to the baby sprinkle. This age of covid has diminished a lot of things, but it hasn't diminished your kindness and support.

Thank you!