



FOCUS

MARCH 2022 - MMXXII ISSUE III

735 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

No Condemnation in Christ Jim Fleming, Interim Senior Pastor

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

Self-condemnation can feed upon two truths: First, God knows all things. God has perfect insight into all the ways we could do better. His perception of my shortcomings is perfect and complete.

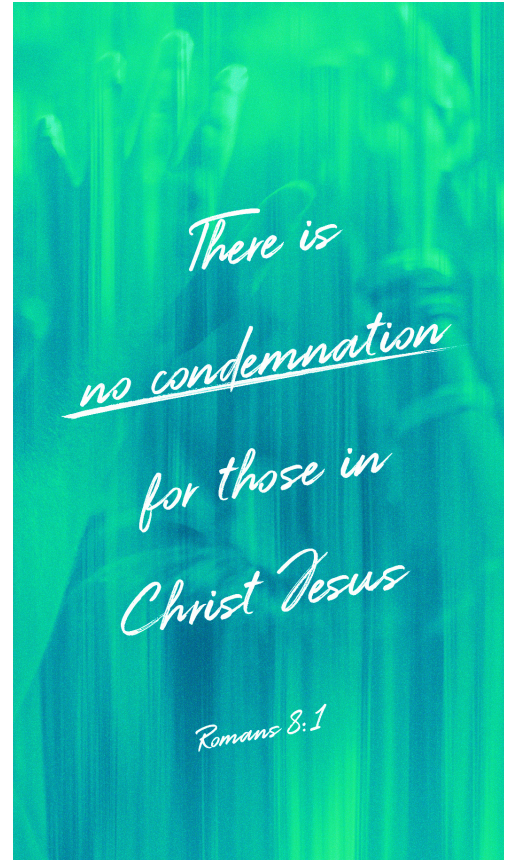
Second, God is absolutely holy and we are not. No matter how hard our hands work at something, their uncleanness will contaminate the product. Our moral unworthiness stamps everything we would offer to God as unacceptable. It shouts not just of our acts, but of us, "Unacceptable!"

Romans 8:1 is the antidote of truth to such a debilitating self-condemnation. For any man "in Christ Jesus," something marvelous, something unbelievable, has occurred. When Jesus died on

the cross, all of the reasons God might have for rejecting such a man and his service were cancelled.

We who are in Christ no longer stand upon the stage of life paralyzed by fear, painfully aware of all the ways our performance falls short in the eyes of a perfectionist father. We are liberated by the joy of knowing our performance will be seen and appreciated by an adoring Father who only has eyes for what gives Him pleasure. Even if the flaws are mountains and the good mere mustard seeds, He sees the seeds.

Don't listen to the voice of self-judgment that heckles you to retire from the field. Minister all-out, fueled by joyful abandon, attentive only to Father's pleasure. He will only find things to like in what we do; He will not grimace when He replays the tape; He will smile and say, "Let me tell you all the things I like about what you did!"



On To Phase Two Transition Committee

The Transition Council of 40 is only a few folks shy of completing interviews of everyone who calls First Evan home. This is no small accomplishment and has been profoundly informative. Now we are ready to move on to phase two in our church health assessment. Ken Eriksen has expanded the Transition Committee. **Here is who has stepped up (top to bottom, left to right): Gil Brandon, Walter Andrews, Mickey Bowdon, Ken Eriksen (Chairman), Bryan Miller, Jim Fleming, Jo Anne Clark, Melinda Hoehn, Kari Armstrong. Not pictured: JP Hickey, and Buddy Jones.**



Phase two of the process requires the committee to process all that we have learned and distill it down to key issues to address from our past and strategic challenges we are facing in our future. If you attended an "In the Know" meeting, you caught a glimpse of what they are learning. Eventually, the Transition Committee will pass along formal recommendations to the leadership and the congregation. Pray for this group of eleven to clearly identify what God desires us to know and do. Pray for us as a congregation to grow in our sense of where God is calling us and to say "yes" to Him.

CHURCH-WIDE

Taking It To the Next Level



Congratulations to the 137 men and women who are currently attending Shepherdology 101. (One group meets on Sunday nights, another on Wednesday nights.) Class participants are learning how to tap into the power and shepherding wisdom of God's Word. Pray for God to honor their efforts and raise up a host of flourishing flocks here at First Evan.

Further Up and Further In



For the past four weeks, many Sunday School classes gathered in the gym for *Further Up and Further In*. We were so encouraged to create a place for Cross-Generational connections to be made. Each week, we began by worshipping together, followed by a time for discussion within our groups. We are so thankful for this time to get to know our church members better and we pray that as this ends, we will continue to foster the connections that were made during this event. We want to thank all of the Sunday school classes and individuals for attending this event!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Dan and Sue Wicher
868 Rhett Butler Dr.
Collierville, TN 38017



International Disaster Fund

In light of the recent disaster in Ukraine, people who are interested in helping financially may give at www.firstevan.org/disaster or designate "International Disaster Fund" in the memo line of checks. Please continue to pray.



Discover First Evan Sunday, April 24

4:00–6:00 p.m., Chapel
This class is offered to those interested in learning more about First Evan or desiring membership. Attending the class in no way obligates you to join, but it is the first step toward membership. Questions can be directed to Jacki Stieferman at jstieferman@firstevan.org. Register at www.firstevan.org/dfe.

NEW ON STAFF



Austin Smith
Middle School Director

We are so excited to welcome our new Impact Director and his family to First Evan. Austin has a passion for sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus and loves to help students grow their faith. Austin and his wife, Brittany, just introduced their daughter, Emerson, into their family. In his free time, Austin has many hobbies, including playing the guitar, drawing, and skateboarding. If you see them around, be sure to give them a warm welcome!

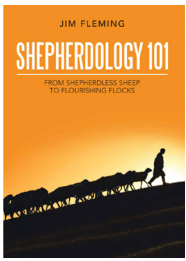


Gregg Harris
Maintenance Staff

We want to welcome Gregg to our maintenance department. Gregg is filling the role of our general handyman and brings a lot of experience in construction and maintenance. He was born and raised in Olive Branch, MS. He is married and has two adult children. He and his wife currently reside in Hernando, MS.

Congratulations First Evan Authors!

Pastor Jim Fleming and Women's Ministry Director Crickett Keeth have each published books this year that are now available at Amazon. Here's a snippet from their books, *Shepherdology 101* and *Before the Throne*.



Shepherdology 101: Jim Fleming has spent over four decades studying and ministering as a local church shepherd. Now he is passing along what he has learned as his legacy. He hopes that those who read and practice what is in this book will manifest what Jesus expects of His shepherds. For those who do, Pastor Fleming anticipates a fixed and future day when a host of shepherds will join him as they bask in joy before their Chief Shepherd. *Shepherdology 101* will help you get ready for this glorious moment.



Before the Throne (Moody Publishers): Where do you go when life overwhelms you? Before the Throne. God's people know they can turn to Him when times get tough. Instead of trying to fix things on our own, we can enter God's throne room in prayer. The access granted to us by Jesus our High Priest is our comfort when the world is turned upside down. In *Before the Throne*, Crickett Keeth, author of *On Bended Knee*, offers a follow-up study of eight prayer warriors from Scripture who turned to God when times became difficult.

Midweek Fellowship Meal

Wednesdays, March 2–April 27
(No Meal on March 16)

5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for dinner and stay after to fellowship. See the next page for our Spring Midweek Fellowship for the entire family! \$7/adult; \$4/child (3-10); family max \$30; \$8 take-home meal. **There is no charge for first-time visitors!** www.firstevan.org/midweek-meal

Congregational Meeting

NEW DATE:

Sunday, May 22

6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Jesus said, "Let the Children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Would you like to help disciple the next generation?

Our Children's Ministry is in need of faithful service!

Contact FEC Kids to volunteer: feckids@firstevan.org.



Ellyana, 10, shares how her Sunday School and Midweek teachers are helping her know Jesus.

www.firstevan.org/GodatWork

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

- Sunday greeters
- 2–3 couples to serve in the nursery on Sundays, every other week
- Sunday School assistant-teachers, every other week (2 assistants needed in 3rd grade and 2 assistants needed in 4th/5th boys)
- Childcare workers (paid position)
- Summer teachers for all ages
- Children's Church helpers, once a month

Resurrection in Real Time

On the Sundays surrounding Resurrection Sunday, we will trace events immediately before and after Jesus left His tomb. On April 3, we will examine a profound event that happened just days before the crucifixion. On Palm Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the coming of the King. On Good Friday, we will remember the words Jesus uttered on the cross. On Resurrection Sunday, we will listen in to the Sunday conversation of some Jerusalem travelers. You get the idea, each of the sermons in this series will recall a biblical event connected to the Resurrection in Real Time. Get ready to walk beside Jesus and His followers for an amazing five weeks!

APR 3 "You Would Not"
Luke 19:37-44

APR 10 "THE LORD'S PRAYER"
PALM SUNDAY SERVICES
9:00 and 10:45 a.m.
"A Donkey and a Horse"
John 12:12-16

APR 15 GOOD FRIDAY
6:00 p.m. Service
Communion
"Seven Last Words"

APR 17 RESURRECTION SUNDAY
10:45 a.m. Service
"What Just Happened"
Luke 24:13-35

APR 24 "No Doubt"
John 20:24-29

MAY 1 "Peter's Do-Over"
John 21:1-19



Doxology Concert

Sunday, April 3

5:00 p.m. Soup Supper | 6:00 p.m. Concert
Join us for soup supper and a concert by Doxology. This 16-voice vocal ensemble performs in a variety of styles including vocal jazz, gospel, modern, traditional, and contemporary, and is comprised of students from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. This is an opportunity to fellowship with fellow church members and enjoy an evening of music. Listen to some of their arrangements of songs and hymns at sbts.edu/doxology.

FEC KIDS

KMC 2022: "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands!" (Age 4-5th grade) Sundays, March 6 and 13

Sir Lexalot is back—and he has been leading our kids on a walk down the "Roman Road"! Our hope is that your children will leave KMC armored up with the truth and ready to share the good news of the gospel wherever God leads them!

On Saturdays, March 5 and 12, we offer childcare for kids ages three and under of those attending the Global Missions Focus seminars (**please email children@firstevan.org**). On Sunday, February 27 we traveled to France. Next, we will travel to Nepal and Egypt where we will learn about the cultures by tasting foods and making crafts. And we will hear from members of First Evan who have done ministry work in these countries!



Spring Midweek Fellowship

Wednesdays, March 23-April 27

Midweek Fellowship Meal

5:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Family Fun

6:00-8:00 p.m., Playground/East Lawn

As Heart to Heart and FEC Kids Midweek programming come to an end, we'd like to invite you and your families and friends to join us for Midweek Fellowship Meals and family fun on the playground and East Lawn.

MAR 23 Community Helper Night
(Meet real firemen, police officers, doctors!)

MAR 30 FREE Kona Ice Icees

APR 6 Paint Night
(make an Easter door hanger)

APR 13 Easter Egg Hunt
(ages 2 and up - registration required)

APR 20 Movie Night

APR 27 Bounce Houses

Vacation Bible School "Monumental - Celebrating God's Greatness"

SAVE THE DATES: Monday-Friday

June 6-10, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

For rising Kindergarten-5th grade



Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's greatness, kids will form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun!

Registration begins Sunday, March 27 at www.firstevan.org/vbs.

A Look at March

LEARN



LOVE



LIVE



MAR 6: The People Didn't Go Into the Land (Numbers 13-14)

MAR 13: Moses Disobeyed God (Numbers 20)

MAR 20: God Healed the People (Numbers 21)

MAR 27: No One is Like God (1 Peter 1)

Big Picture Question:
What is God like?
God is holy, good, and loving.

Memory Verse:
Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?
Exodus 15:11

Spiritual Discipline:
Service

GLOBAL MISSIONS FOCUS

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The Global Missions Focus (GMF) seeks to further the “partnership in the Gospel” that First Evan has with our National Ministry Partners. Since they can easily reach unreached people groups, our partnership serves to advance the goal of “making disciples of all nations.”

The first weekend of our GMF has been a great success as we have learned from and been encouraged by our National Partners from Czech Republic (Katka), Slovakia (Gaby), Poland (Wojciech and Marek), and Romania/Moldova (Dan and Ema Onu).

The Saturday morning Panel Discussions were informative and Sunday morning worship was inspirational. Listening to Dan Onu preach in Romanian, with Jeri Little translating, was a new experience for many of us.

The Zoom Meet & Greets were a blessing to our Missionaries. Visit www.firstevan.org/zoommeetandgreets to get the upcoming schedules. Simply click on the Zoom link at the scheduled hour and it will take you to the session.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

WEEK 1

CENTRAL & EASTERN
EUROPE PARTNERS



WEEK 2

SOUTH ASIA
PARTNERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Midweek Fellowship Meal
5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Interviews with Missionaries
and National Partners
6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/A122

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

National Partner Panel Discussion
9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Sunday School Classes (optional)
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Worship Service: South Asia
10:45–12:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC: Travel to Nepal
10:45–12:00 p.m., C-Wing



MOSES PARMAR – SPEAKER

WEEK 3

MEXICO, USA, &
MIDDLE EAST PARTNERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Midweek Fellowship Meal
5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Interviews with Missionaries
and National Partners
6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/A122

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

National Partner Panel Discussion
9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Sunday School Classes (optional)
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Worship Service:
Mexico/USA/Middle East
10:45–12:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC: Travel to Egypt
10:45–12:00 p.m., C-Wing
GMF Luncheon
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



NADIM COSTA – SPEAKER

GLOBAL MISSIONS (CONTINUED)

GMF Project - World Relief: Resettlement Memphis



World Relief Memphis comes alongside refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations as they rebuild their lives in the United States. In 2012, the Memphis office opened, and they have been welcoming these international neighbors to the Bluff City ever since.

The recent evacuation of Afghan families who were aligned with the United States military has created a huge need for additional resettlement. World Relief Memphis intends to bring in dozens of families over the next 12 months. These families have been vetted and have been given special residency and employment status in the United States.

Our goal for these weeks of the Global Missions Focus is two-fold: **1) Raise at least \$20,000 to assist with this resettlement effort, and 2) Create opportunities for our FEC families to have direct involvement with these families moving to our community. Help us reach our goal and give today: www.firstevan.org/gmfproject.**

Let Matthew 25:35 guide us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

Missions During the Pandemic (Or: "When COVID Hands You Lemons, Zoom!")

Ron Man, Missionary in Residence

I have no overseas teaching trips for two years. But, thanks to Zoom, the ministry could continue online.

While not ideal, there have been a few benefits:

1. Saving on the wear and tear of overseas travel.
2. Sleeping in one's own bed!
3. Using PowerPoint without worrying about adapters, projectors, screen resolution, etc.
4. Saving money: for my Singapore Bible College course, the students and I Zoomed from eight different countries, saving a *lot* of travel expense.

I have missed personal interaction with the students. However, it has been encouraging to get emails from students showing that God is still at work:

"It is such a pleasure to take part in your class as I am renewing my view of worship in my personal life."

"After class, I just want to drop to my knees and pray."

"The course really opened my mind, and I will use this material quite a lot in my teaching ministry."



"There are so many things I learned through this course. I regret that I didn't have this much earlier in my training. But better late than never!"

"I teach a course at the Bible school on pastoral ministry. I will incorporate this material into my course."

"This course changed my perspective on the Bible and on church ministry."

"As it was a tremendous opportunity to learn about worship profoundly in the class, now it is also a great enthusiasm to impart the attained lessons to our church. I designed 13 lessons on biblical preaching to deliver to the church."

"Professor, that was amazing course and amazing teaching about worship I had ever attend!!!"

Are We Doing Short-Term Mission Trips?

COVID has dramatically changed the landscape when it comes to Short-Term Missions Trips. Just when we think that international travel will return to some normalcy, COVID throws us a curve.

Short-Term Missions Trips are still a strategic tool that First Evan uses to 1) bless the Missionaries and/or National Partners with whom we work, and 2) increase a passion for Global Missions within our congregation.

While several trips are in the discussion phase, there is one trip that is on the calendar. We have again been invited to send people to the **Czech Republic** to assist our ministry partners there (**In-Life**) in an English Camp. University students, who are believers, invite their non-Christian friends to a beautiful venue in the Czech mountains to learn conversational English from Americans. We have had the privilege of providing "teachers" since 2001. The trip is the third week of July, with travel to and from the Czech Republic on weekends before and after the Camp.

If you are interested in this trip or another kind of trip, please contact the [Global Missions Office](#).

World Prayer Focus Sunday, March 20

5:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel

We will pray for nations and peoples in different parts of the world. We will pray for the effectiveness of our missionaries in "making disciples of all nations." We will pray for Memphis and First Evan's involvement with our local ministry partners.

MEN



Men's Retreat

Friday–Sunday, April 29–May 1
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas
Online registration begins
Sunday, March 27!

Cabins will be on a first come basis. Riverside Resort Campground on the Spring River near Mammoth Spring, Arkansas. More info and prices to come at www.firstevan.org/mens-retreat.

STUDENTS



Student Ministries Lock-out

Student Ministries had their first ever Lock-out! Middle School and High School combined for a night of activities around Memphis. We started with a scavenger hunt that ended with Gibson's Donuts. Followed by a visit to Main Event with many rounds of bowling, arcade games, and laser tag. The highlight of the night was being able to hear about the incredible work that Jesus has done in the life of our very own Bart Bartholomeo while he shared his testimony with our students. We want to thank all of our volunteer leaders, church staff, and students for making this a night to remember.

MEMPHIS



Meet Memphis Saturday, April 2

We will collaborate with our Memphis Ministries Partners across the city in service, hospitality, and relationship-building! If you've been involved in one of our First Evan ministry partners before, this is a chance to invite others to join you in seeking the peace and thriving of Memphis. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve our city, Meet Memphis is a natural entry point to connect with a Memphis ministry. Sign up for one of our nine projects: www.firstevan.org/meetmemphis.

CARE

ACT II Widows Fellowship Monday, March 7, 10:00 a.m., Chapel Speaker: Ronnie Stevens

A group for widows that meets the first Monday of each month in the Chapel for prayer and fellowship, unless we have an outing. Our outreach is with our new widows in their first year of widowhood. For more information about this ministry please contact Cathy Graham at cathygraham@icloud.com, 685-1028, or 299-1426 (cell).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Senior Home Bible Study & Mini Worship Services

This ministry involves many of our elders and other leaders in the church conducting a Bible study or mini worship service in a retirement home, assisted living, or nursing home. This is truly an outreach ministry as the gospel is being proclaimed in these homes throughout the Memphis area. All the residents are welcome to attend regardless of their spiritual background, and those looking into Christianity are most certainly welcome. Usually each facility will have one 20–30 minute Bible study or service per week. You do not have to have previous experience and is for both men and women. If you'd like more information about this ministry please contact Larry Fitzgerald at larryfitz35@gmail.com or 212-6758.

WOMEN



A Colorful Day 2022

After not being able to meet last year, not even the Ice Storm of 2022 could keep ladies from showing up for a day of learning and fun. Our theme was "Connected in Community" to allow opportunity for women to fellowship and be together since so many have been isolated these past two years. We had over 100 ladies in attendance who were able to choose from various breakout electives that ranged from flower arranging to the Story of Scripture. We enjoyed a delicious boxed lunch while we shared conversation using fun ice-breaker activities. We ended the day with worship led by Olivia Grace Sistrunk and a devotional by Rochelle Fleming. It was a Colorful Day filled with fun, refreshment and fellowship.

Women Shepherding Women Wednesdays, beginning March 23 6:15–8:00 p.m., E135 OR Sundays, beginning March 27 6:00–7:45 p.m., E135

For women who want to be difference makers in the lives of other women, the Word of God provides clear guidance. Join Rochelle Fleming for a study of Titus 2:3–5, open to women of all ages. In addition to whole group teaching sessions, the class will enjoy weekly breakout discussions in table groups. All women are invited to learn how to make the Word of God look good. Contact Paige Poloni with questions at ppoloni@firstevan.org.

Mentoring Moms

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, April 26
7:00 p.m., Jo Anne Clark's Home
548 Valleybrook Dr., Memphis

All women are invited to hear from Kelye Stelling as she shares about God's faithfulness to her family. Details at www.firstevan.org/mentoring-moms.

MARCH '22

		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		H2H Women's Bible Study 1 9:30-11:30 a.m., F-Hall	Midweek Meal & Activities 2 5:00-8:00 p.m. Shepherdology 101 6:15-8:00 p.m., E125/126 GMF Interviews 6:15-8:00 p.m., A121/122	3	4	National Partner Panel Discussion 5 9:00-11:00 a.m., F-Hall
SUNDAY	MONDAY	H2H Women's Bible Study with Luncheon 8 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall	Men's Bible Study 9 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek 5:00-8:00 p.m. Shepherdology 101 6:15-8:00 p.m., E125/126 GMF Interviews 6:15-8:00 p.m., A121/122	10	11	National Partner Panel Discussion 12 9:00-11:00 a.m., F-Hall
Communion 6 GMF & KMC 10:45 a.m. Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126 Break 7:00 p.m., The Hall's Home	ACT II Widows Fellowship 7 10:00 a.m., Chapel Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	15	Men's Bible Study 16 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom	17	18	19
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 13 GMF & KMC 10:45 a.m. GMF Luncheon 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126	SPRING BREAK		NO MIDWEEK OR SHEPHERDOLOGY			
20 World Prayer Focus 5:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126 Women Shep. Women 6:00-7:45 p.m., E135	21 Council Meeting 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	22	23 Men's Bible Study 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek 5:00-8:00 p.m. Shepherdology 101 6:15-8:00 p.m., E125/126 Women Shep. Women 6:15-8:00 p.m., E135	24	25	26
27 Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126 Women Shep. Women 6:00-7:45 p.m., E135	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	29 Canvas Art Class 6:00 p.m., E144	30 Men's Bible Study 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek 5:00-8:00 p.m. Shepherdology 101 6:15-8:00 p.m., E125/126 Women Shep. Women 6:15-8:00 p.m., E135	31		