

# THE WITNESS



The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all.  
EPC Mission Statement ~ Adopted by Session 2011

April 11, 2012

## Engaging “New Seniors” and Older Adults in the Life of the Church

Developing ministry opportunities for aging adults and “new seniors” is no longer optional! It is an absolute necessity! **WHY? The future is aging.** These are days of tremendous opportunity in the community of faith. Up to this point, churches have had limited, if any older adult ministry.

The times are changing! The median age of Presbyterians was 58 in 2001. Today the median age is 61. For every worshiper between the ages of 15 and 25 there are more than six worshipers over the age of 65.

Be assured older adults and the so-called “new seniors” of today are anything but rocking chair bound. All across the nation you will hear the demand for “productive,” “creative,” “vital,” and “successful” aging. Churches that catch a vision for ministry by, with, and for older adults and “new seniors” will find renewal springing up in the church and subsequent numerical and spiritual growth.

America is aging! The population shift is astounding as we move from a predominately young to an aging culture. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number of Americans aged 65 and older increased eleven-fold, from 3 million to 33 million. According to U.S. Census Bureau projections, those numbers will more than double in the next four decades to well over 70 million! An Older Adult or “New Seniors” ministry offers tremendous opportunities that allow individuals to serve in ways that are unique, meaningful, and life changing. The church should be one of the best sources for volunteers to serve in our communities. It is the first time in history where it will be common to have five or six generations occupying the same pew.

My fascination with changing demographics has always been an interest from my former retail career, and transformed to a sense of call following my graduation from Columbia Seminary. I began to see the vision for older adult ministry from several PC(USA) resources and their expertise. This vision is not my own, but shared by many of you as the changing demographics become reality. I am grateful to be the conduit for older adult ministry, and I am grateful for those who support and encourage a ministry, which will enable older adults to achieve the highest possible level of the abundant life Jesus came to offer. My hope and prayer is that Eastminster will fully embrace older adult ministry as one of her own. My faith and call is to be of help to all people, ministering to older adults and others wherever they be, helping them to rediscover the joy of being members of the body of Christ.

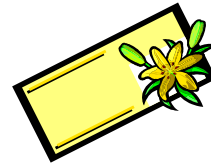
Grace and peace of the Easter season,

Robert.

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## Let's do lunch!

All women are invited to attend our annual PW spring luncheon and Birthday Offering on Sunday, May 6 in Founder's Hall following the 11:00 A.M. worship service. Please bring a salad to share (taco, chicken, tuna, tossed, congealed, layered, marinated, etc.). Beverages, bread, and cake will be provided. We will also recognize our 2011-2012 Council Members and present our honorable "Life Membership Award". More information will follow regarding our speaker and the beneficiaries of this year's offerings.



### Notice:

The annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, April 29 after 11:00 worship.

## Older Adults Still In Service

**To the quarry! Thursday, April 26.** We will visit the largest granite quarry in the United States in Norcross, beginning at the observation deck and heading deep down into the quarry. Space is limited, so please make a reservation with the church office. The van will leave EPC at 9:45 a.m., return by noon

**To the ball park! Gwinnett Braves, Saturday, May 5, 7:05 p.m.** Leaving EPC at 5 p.m. and have a picnic supper at the ball park. Group rates are available. Please make a reservation with the church office by April 30.

**To the historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Thursday, May 10.** Van leaves at 9:45 a.m. for a tour of the church with its historic collection of stained glass windows, as well as hear the Alston memorial Pipe Organ, one of the largest in the city. Coffee at the church, and lunch following. Please make a reservation by May, 5.

**To Patak Meats, Austell, Thursday, May 24.** Just in time for Memorial Day picnics. Leave EPC at 9:45 a.m. to visit a fine European (Czech and Polish) meat and sausage plant offering wholesale products, as well as a retail deli where the public can purchase meat products. Up to 20,000 lbs of smoked products are produced each day! Please make a reservation by May 17.



## May Birthdays

1	Mary Beth Hamburger	11	Zach Weyher	20	Elizabeth Aycock	29	Marjory Crawford
3	Zachary Wilborn	14	Mardee Rightmyer		Annalise Peters		Kevin Hamburger
6	Kathy Harrison	15	Larry Bentley	24	Richard Kellogg		Andy Heckman
7	Lauren McCormick	16	Katie Kellogg		Kris Lord		Richard Staten
	Marcia Price	17	Barbara Delong	25	Bill Hutchinson	30	Ian Ferry
8	Felicia Szathmari		LaRue Gerard		John Maly		Caroline Thompson
9	Cari Mitchell	18	Blake Staten	27	Gary Gaskill		Rebecca Willis
10	Linda Chapman	19	Thomas Brandon	28	Margaret Moseley	31	Taylor Boven
11	Carolyn Coons		Andrew Conaway	29	Chris Agocs		Wayne McCormick

## Unique Cards

Remember your mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, or any other woman who has made a difference in your life on Mother's Day with cards that support the ministry of Presbyterian women throughout the globe. Donations are encouraged and appreciated. Janet Uthlaut will have these cards available beginning Sunday, April 15. Please contact her personally, by phone (770) 923-9762, and e-mail: [jefuthlaut@bellsouth.net](mailto:jefuthlaut@bellsouth.net).



### Join us!

On Wednesday evening, May 2, EPC is excited to have the Former Moderator of the General Assembly (PCUSA), The Reverend Joan Gray, present to us the details of what is being introduced by our Presbytery as a "Policy on Flexible Governance". This policy was considered by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and approved at its March meeting.

Each church in the Presbytery has been asked to educate their members on the new policy and who better to do this than Rev. Gray as she wrote the book, literally, on Presbyterian Polity and served on the task force which recommended the policy.

Plan to be with us on that evening!



## A New Seven Week Adult Class

### in Adult Center Room 308A

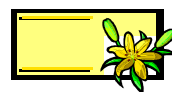
Do you want to start the Easter season with a desire to learn how to live a resurrected life? Beginning Sunday, April 15, there will be a seven week study using the NOOMA video series created by Rob Bell, a sought after preacher and speaker. Each Sunday stands alone and no prior preparation is required. Topics will include:

- April 15 TODAY – Can we become so consumed with the past that we can't see the beauty of today?
- April 22 SHELLS – Are we so busy that we miss out on what we're supposed to be doing?
- April 29 WHIRLWIND - What do we do when there aren't nice, neat answers?
- May 6 YOU - Do we get so hung up on debating our faith that we miss out on the point of it?
- May 13 TOMATO – Do we try so hard to live the perfect life that we miss out on how to truly live?
- May 20 SUNDAY - Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God?
- May 27 CORNER – Why is it that when we get what we want, we still feel empty?

## Curious? Interested?

### PW Information Available

What exactly do Presbyterian Women do at Eastminster? What are circles? How many are there? How can you join? What is the college ministry? Tell me more about the spring luncheons. Explain the annual Christmas ornament workshop. What is a winter retreat? Do EPC women support mission projects? If you would like more details regarding Presbyterian Women at Eastminster you may currently find brightly-colored folders in the church pews, on tables in the narthex, and inside an information envelope attached to the PW bulletin board located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the third floor educational building.



## Come See Columbia Day

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 19 to visit our own Columbia Seminary in Decatur and share the day interacting with students, faculty, and other Columbia Friendship Members on this pristine campus. Registration begins at 9:00 A.M. followed by worship, introductions of scholarship recipients, lunch, refectory, seminary classes, and campus tours. Please contact your circle leaders if you are interested. Driving arrangements can be determined. For more information please check the PW bulletin board.

## Meet the Challenge Throughout April

We have decided to meet the "Challenge" head-on and extend our Food Drive through April. Stone Mtn. Co-op is in desperate need of food/staples and the Feinstein Organization has agreed to match funds for each pound of food contributed during the months of March and April. We are publishing the list again as a visual reminder of suggested requests. This is an opportunity to share our bounty, have it doubled in value, and feed the hungry in our community. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support.



Outreach Committee

flour  
 soup  
 peanut butter  
 rice  
 instant grits  
 canned fruit  
 canned pasta  
 spaghetti, Alfredo and pesto sauce  
 liquid and bar soap  
 disposable razor  
 baby wipes  
 toilet paper

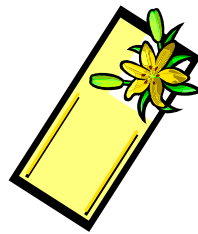
sugar  
 dry and hot cereal  
 dry and Parmalat milk  
 jello  
 instant oatmeal  
 canned meat  
 no-sugar cereal  
 bottled and boxed juice  
 toothbrush  
 diapers  
 Wet Ones  
 Kleenex

small jars coffee  
 jelly  
 tuna  
 canned vegetables  
 dried beans  
 boxed mac and cheese  
 macaroni, spaghetti, fettuccini  
 toothpaste  
 shaving cream  
 shampoo  
 laundry and dish detergent  
 paper towels

### Workday!



Come one, come all to the annual EPC Spring workday on Saturday, May 5 from 9 - noon. Bring yard tools: rakes, trimmers, edgers, wheelbarrows, etc. and any bales of pine straw you may be able to donate. (We need a lot!) Contact Skip Cloninger at 770-313-5963 or Pat Carmichael at 770-827-4369 with any questions. Hope to see you there!



### Sympathy to...

Robert Thomson on the death of his father, Robert Thomson, Sr., on April 3.

### Wanted!

2 working microwave ovens  
 (for Adult Center and preschool kitchens)

## Stone Mountain Co-op Needs Your Assistance!

From May 9-30 Eastminster has been requested to send two volunteers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week. The Co-op will be closed on Memorial Day, May 28. Our responsibilities will include unloading food, stocking shelves, sorting bags, assembling grocery orders, etc. Hours will be 9:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. If you are interested in serving in this capacity for a day or two during this month there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. There will be spaces for your name and telephone number. After all volunteers are secured, an e-mail or letter will follow with a list of all volunteers, dates, and phone numbers as well as directions to the Co-op. Let's fulfill the need and reach out to others in our community!

Outreach Committee

# Music at Eastminster

## *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*

April 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 6:00 pm

The Spring concert by the Chancel Choir will be a program of choral selections taking the words of Paul's letter to the Colossians to heart. Please mark your calendar now to attend a program which will contain music to delight the ear and inspire the soul. Invite a friend, bring a neighbor to a very special evening of music.

### WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED SPIRITUAL SONGS...

Ephesians 5:19 - "speaking to one another in *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;"

Definitions and examples of the first two categories, as done in the two preceding articles, demonstrate they can be considered different entities if one considers the Psalter as the sole source of the one as distinguished from hymns, songs written under the influence of Scripture but not direct quotation. The third category of those expressions of praise and worship of God is the most difficult to define. Indeed, *spiritual songs* takes on different meanings throughout history and within various cultures.

A beginning example from the Old Testament is from the book of Isaiah - not just Isaiah the prophet, but also Isaiah the poet. Most familiar to us is Isaiah 12 - referred to as The First Song of Isaiah (and we sing it in paraphrase "Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"). There is also Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9 and 52:13-53:12 - referred to as the "servant songs".

Moving ahead 2000 years, Isaac Watts published *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* in London in 1707. In his preface, to differentiate spiritual songs from hymns, he writes "I have borrowed the Sense, and much of the Form of the Song from some particular Portions of Scripture,... In these I expect to be often censured for a too religious Observance of the Words of Scripture." For the full text, access on-line: [www.ccel.org/cceh//archives/eee/wattsprh.htm](http://www.ccel.org/cceh//archives/eee/wattsprh.htm).

Moving to North America, the term *spiritual song* continued in similar use - but not the term *spiritual*. *Negro Spiritual* first appears in print in the 1860s where slaves are described as using the noun *spiritual* for religious songs. Although numerous rhythmical and sonic elements of these spirituals can be traced to African sources, nonetheless it is a fact that Negro spirituals are a musical form that is indigenous and specific to the religious experience in the United States of Africans transported from Africa. They are a result of the interaction of African religious elements with music and religion derived from Europe. Further, this interaction occurred only in the United States. Africans who converted to Christianity in other parts of the world did not evolve this form.

Today, the term *spiritual song* has been appropriated to mean any of a number of modern musical forms and the term *spiritual* to include songs written in the style of the Negro spiritual.

No matter how defined or differentiated each is from the other, the call to us by the Apostle Paul in Colossians 3:16 is clear: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing *psalms, hymns and spiritual songs* with gratitude in your hearts to God."

## Dates to Remember

April 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Chancel Bells and  
Sonshine Singers at 11:00 Worship

April 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday

Concert Choir Rehearsal

Choir Room 9:00 am

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Eastminster Orchestra

Joyful Noise & Jubilation

at 11:00 Worship

~ ~ ~ ~

Music from Eastminster

***Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs***

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Tuesday

Parkview High Choral Department

Annual Spring Concert

7:30 pm ~ Sanctuary

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Music from Eastminster

***Bellebration***

Annual Handbell Concert

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

May 9<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday

Men's Ensemble rehearsal

7:30 pm ~ Choir Room

May 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Mens Ensemble and Kids Kwires

at 11:00 am Worship

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday

Kids Kwires Klosing Koncert

6:30 pm ~ Adult Center

May 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

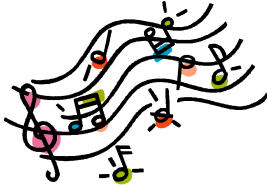
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Graduate Recognition / Confirmation

Joyful Noise & Jubilation

at 11:00 Worship

## Wednesday Night Programs



**\* April 18 - Hymn Sing** Ed Weaver will lead us in your old favorites. Let him know ahead of time the one you want to sing or take your chance and suggest it that night.

**\* April 25 - To be announced**

**\* May 2 - Joan Gray, former moderator of the PCUSA,** author of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers*, and current interim pastor of Clairmont Presbyterian Church will talk to us about the future of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and our part in it.

PGA I or PGA II  
 What does it mean?  
 Why should I care?

**A MUST SEE!!**



**\* May 9 - Weekday Ministry presents the play: "Daisy Head Mayzie" by Dr. Suess.**

**\* May 16 – Children’s Choirs Performance**  
 Final Wednesday program before summer.




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## Undie Sunday

Most of us take for granted that we can open a "drawer" and find fresh, clean, folded underwear every day. Partnering with Columbia and Memorial Drive Presbyterian Churches and the International Rescue Committee, we can provide much needed underwear for the refugee community near us. There will be containers in the narthex May 6. I hope you will join me in helping to fill them up. Thank you.

Beverly Roberts, Outreach



## Clerk's Corner

### Highlights from Minutes of February 19 Meeting

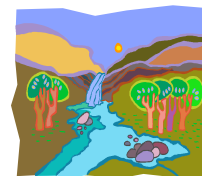
- ◆ Welcome to the Class of 2014: Rick Adle, Pat Carmichael, Peggy McCurdy, Audra Swinkola, Janet Uthlaut, Helen Wilborn. And for a one year term Youth Elder Katherine Gordon.
- ◆ Christian Education: VBS will be June 4-8 Operation Overboard – Dare to Go Deep with God  
Confirmation Class has five youth and will join the church May 22.  
Will Norman will be leading Wednesday evening Lenten study Chasing the Wind – a study of Ecclesiastes.
- ◆ Building and Grounds Committee is transitioning from the Trustee's.
- ◆ In-Touch –Rick Adle has agreed to chair this committee and is in process of putting together a committee. Some ideas: church wide talent show in April, church wide picnic and Men's Bible Study.
- ◆ Ways and Means – Amended budget of \$502,692 was approved.

### Highlights from Minutes of March 18 Meeting

- ◆ Letter was read from Rev. Tom Evans, Executive Presbyter Greater Atlanta Presbytery regarding Flexible Governance Policy adopted by Presbytery in February. After a brief summary by Reverend Clarke there was some discussion. Session decided that it and the congregation needed more information about the policy before it has further discussion or action regarding the policy. A program on a Wednesday night this spring for entire congregation is being planned.
- ◆ Mark Sauls gave a presentation on the use of Google calendar. EPC is moving forward with having one central calendar and then links to other calendars for the various committees/ministries at EPC. This is being done to better communications and as a part of the process for the new website. Everyone will have the ability to view but access to edit and change will be limited.
- ◆ Building and Grounds – Church wide work day Saturday, May 5 – Details to follow
- ◆ Outreach – “Undie Sunday” – May 6; Blood drive – May 20  
Mexico Mission trips for 2012 have been cancelled due to continued violence in Mexico.
- ◆ Weekday Ministries – After school program is working to expand its current enrollment of 62. State inspection and approval for use of additional rooms is pending. Summer program is being planned and children are being accepted now for the summer camps.
- ◆ Christian Education – VBS –**OPERATION OVERBOARD –DARE TO GO DEEP WITH GOD** June 4-8
- ◆ In Touch - Church wide talent show Saturday, April 28
- ◆ OASIS (Older Adults Still in Service) – Upcoming events: Gwinnett Braves game and tour Vulcan Granite Quarry.
- ◆ Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 29.

### Did You Know??

One of our Own – Lucy Cole Gratton, (also known as Kiera and Ashlin Swinkola's “Aunt Lucy”) was recently awarded the 2012 Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award for her work with the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition. Upon retirement, Lucy moved from Florida to the border of the western North Carolina/north Georgia mountains where she immediately got involved in protecting the environment of her new habitat. As a trained accountant, she first systematized the reimbursement paperwork for grants for the coalition - a critical requirement for non-profits! She has since become a passionate leader in the coalition's efforts to protect the streams and surrounding land and wildlife. For those of us down steam from her environmental stewardship efforts, we should be not only proud but grateful for her award! Way to go, Lucy!



THE WITNESS IS  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
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eastminsterpres@yahoo.com  
Contact: Paula McGill



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Church Office: 770-469-4881  
Fax: 770-879-9590  
Preschool: 770-469-4880  
School Age Program: 770-469-9489

### **DEADLINES**

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. **Monday, April 30**  
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

## **Thank you!**

- ◆ I'm sorry this is a bit late; school has been really overwhelming this semester with midterms and projects. Thank you so much for the Valentines Treat box, I really enjoyed snacking on it as I studied hard for my midterms. It means a lot knowing that the EPC Women are praying and thinking about me as I continue my college education.  
Your Sincerely, James Meers
- ◆ I can't thank you enough for sending a box filled with Valentine's greetings and goodies! After getting to my apartment at the end of the school day, the box ya'll sent was waiting for me. I can't even begin to explain how excited I was. I love all the snacks, candy, and especially the notes from members of the church. It reminded me of all the prayers and support I receive throughout the year from EPC women. Today I pray for ya'll and the outreach ministry for college students!  
God Bless, Kristin Kellogg
- ◆ Once again you have absolutely made my Valentine's Day extra special! Ya'll are wonderful and I really appreciate all of the goodies you sent me.  
Love, Rachel Warren

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor** ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III  
**Director of Music Ministries** ~ Edward Weaver  
**Director of Family Ministries** ~ Mark Sauls  
**Director of Christian Education** ~ Mardee Rightmyer  
**Director of School Age Program** ~ Celeste Sears  
**Interim Director of Preschool** ~ Sarah Baldwin  
**Secretary** ~ Paula McGill  
**Financial Coordinator** ~ Jan Zabarac