

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

July 11, 2012

Eastminster Book Club

Have you ever been a part of a book club? Well I am extending an invitation to you to join the Eastminster Book Club which will get into full swing this coming August. The good news is we are going to be reading a book which is very familiar to you, and although it is a book of epic proportions, you will have plenty of opportunity to finish it. You can also invite friends and family members to join you.

The Club will last for 31 weeks and the book is entitled *The Story*. *The Story* is a best-selling abridged chronological Bible. There are no verse references in the text, and the segments of Scripture are woven together, with transition text written to connect the storyline so it reads like a seamless story. For people new to the Bible, this way of reading Scripture reduces the intimidation one can feel when approaching the full-length unabridged Bible, and it gives them a holistic and sequential picture of the storyline of Scripture.

For seasoned Bible veterans the chronological arrangement of the essential texts reveals the way the whole Bible fits together in a single grand narrative. Reading through *The Story* triggers interest and understanding, and drives people back to the original Bible texts for further exploration.

Over the coming month you will hear more about the book and how we will integrate the study of *The Story* into the life of the church. First of all, I will be preaching through the 31 weeks it takes to complete the book, so as we progress, my sermons will be centered on the text of the week. This will give us all the opportunity to have what we read reinforced by what we hear. There will be other opportunities too. There is a website which you can access for more information and resources which will enhance our study, and without the standard points of reference and biblical structures, readers of *The Story* are far more likely to experience new discoveries within familiar passages. This is a key purpose of the book.

This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all times: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. It is a story the world needs to hear and gives us here at Eastminster an opportunity to invite others to join us for the 31 weeks. What an easy way to do what God has asked each of us to do: declare the good news here, there, and everywhere.

I am excited about exploring the story with you and with those you choose to have join us.

Blessings,

Caleb

Got tennis balls?

In an effort to preserve the newly waxed preschool floors, we are looking for new and used tennis balls for the bottom of our chairs and tables. Donation boxes can be found in the Preschool lobby and the church office.

Thank you for your help!



Christian Education

Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by 23 children and 13 adults during the week of June 4-8. The Summer Camp Program did not join us at the last minute because it was their first week with a number of new participants who needed to learn the routine of their schedule. Of the 23 children, more than half were visitors so it was a very good outreach for the week.

Next year's VBS is set for July 8-12 so that coordination with the Summer Camp Program can happen. The tentative theme is "Where in the World is Fred?" (Fred is the Norwegian word for Peace.) We will look at peace in our hearts, our home, our school, our neighborhood and our world.

Sunday School:

July 15-August 12: The Summer schedule will continue with two adult classes meeting from 9:45-10:45. The class in the Adult Center, ably taught by Sally Jackson and Marty Hillman, is using **The Mighty Acts of God** by Arnold Rhodes. The other class is in Founders Hall and is using the NOOMA videos created by Rob Bell, a noted pastor, writer and speaker. Discussion is led by a different class member each week. Children and Youth classes will resume the middle of August.

Beginning August 19: The Story. (See *Caleb's message*) This is a 31 week program that presents the overarching story of the Bible. We will begin on Aug. 26, take a break for the month of December for an Advent study, then pick it back up in January and run until the last Sunday of April. This allows the program to have the lesson about the resurrection on Easter Sunday next year. This then will be the focus of worship, Sunday school and some of the Wednesday night programs for September through April.

Rally Day is set for August 19, the first Sunday after both Gwinnett and Dekalb County school systems are in session. The program will be introduced that day with Aug. 26 to be the first Sunday for the curriculum **The Story** to begin.



August Birthdays

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|----------------------|
| 2 | Harley Drury | 7 | Helen Wilborn | 16 | Jung Oh | 22 | Tom Gordon |
| | Ryan Nix | 8 | Benjamin Hamburger | 17 | Nancy Gaskill | 24 | Ron Lee |
| | Elena Weaver | | Chip Wilmot | | Bob Swift | 28 | Mike Swomley |
| 3 | Marissa Hicks | 9 | Patti Willis | | Janet Uthlaut | 29 | Erica Meers |
| 4 | Bill Cook | 10 | Malcolm McCoy | 18 | Michael Hutchinson | | Douglas Peters |
| | Jessica Lamb | 11 | Patrick Gerard | | David Ramos | 30 | Alexandra Carmichael |
| | Zachary Petty | 13 | Ed Jones | 19 | Erin Stacer | | Brynn Carmichael |
| 5 | Missy Nix | 14 | Robin Gall | | Merida Watchulonis | | Susan Dietz |
| 7 | Ann Lee Bussey | | Charlene Smith | | Jan Zabarc | | Lynn Stacer |
| | Michael Hartle | 15 | Lisa McManus | 21 | Rene' Boven | | |

Clerk's Corner

Excerpts from minutes of the Stated Meeting on June 24, 2012

Sarah Baldwin, Pre-School director, will be working this summer as our communication intern to coordinate the efforts as a new EPC website is being developed and launched later this year.

Building and Grounds - All thermostats will be replaced with digital programmable units and will be locked. Thermostats will be programmed for regularly scheduled meetings and events. If a meeting is scheduled that is not on the calendar, it will be that group's responsibility to call the office so that the thermostat controlling that particular room/area can be adjusted.

Outreach –School supply collection starts in July for the two co-ops. A list of school supplies will be printed in Witness and bulletin.

A one day project is to be scheduled for sometime in August for all interested EPC members to volunteer with Charis Community Housing.

In Touch – Health Fair at EPC is planned for Saturday, October 20 and the Blood Drive on Sunday, October 21.

Church wide picnic tentatively scheduled for August is being re-evaluated due to concerns of excessive heat.

Ways and Means – Budget for June had a shortfall of \$6,063.58 with the YTD deficit of \$18,908.10.

Committee will be meeting to discuss current budget shortfall and begin discussions for the 2013 budget.

Senior Adult Ministry – On going events are scheduled for the summer including a tour of the Temple on Peachtree.

Caroline Thompson

Clerk of Session



SOSS! Save on School Supplies

It's that time of year again and Eastminster is collecting school supplies for Lilburn and Stone Mountain Co-ops. Feel free to donate what you desire. Look for specials advertised in the newspaper, TV and the Internet. Thank you for your generosity and support. Outreach Committee

Wide ruled notebook paper, Wide ruled composition books, Blunt and pointed scissors, Colored pencils, Colored markers, Black and Red pens, Highlighters, No. 2 pencils, Pocket English dictionaries, 3 hole notebooks (binders), Pocket folders with brads, Pencil sharpeners, Erasers, Compasses, Protractors, Rulers, Boxes of tissues, Graph paper, Pencil bags and boxes, 16 pack Crayons, Hand sanitizers, Backpacks.



The Faithful Ones Campaign continues!

As a symbol of our trust in God in these difficult financial times, we ask each church member to place one extra dollar a week in the offering plate. Through June, Eastminster's Faithful Ones contributed \$903 to our 2012 operating fund, supporting our ministries and showing trust in God's abiding love and care. Give faithfully and with a faithful attitude ... and each "faithful (one) will be richly blessed."



Salt Shakers

The Salt Shaker Groups are social meeting groups with the intent of expanding friendships with members of Eastminster. Generally, a church member is assigned to a small group of 8 or more members to have monthly interactions with that group. Usually the groups meet at a home or restaurant to dine and socialize to expand our friendships at Eastminster. The monthly meetings can also be a lunch get-together on a weekday or for lunch after church on Sunday. Lunch get-togethers can be fewer people. You do not have to host at your home. The idea is to have members expand their group of friends at Eastminster. We welcome more Eastminster members to share in this nurturing experience.

On June 2nd, all the Salt Shakers groups met together at the Bentley's for a back yard BBQ. During that meeting, the majority voted to have similar meetings on July 14 (at Mike & Vicki Watchulon's) and again on August 11 (at Aaron & Charlene Smith's).

By Sept. 1st we hope to have more members sign up for the fall start up. By the way, we have several single members and welcome more single members to join us. We will assign groups by early September so the groups can hold a get-together in Sept. and then continue on with their group in Oct. and Nov. In early December, we will have a get-together for all groups.

In Jan., we will re-assign members to a new group that will meet for Jan., Feb., March and April. In May, we will have all groups get together and at that time make plans for the summer.

We have a lot of fun at Salt Shaker meetings and hope more members will join in. We welcome member visitors for the July and Aug. get-togethers. Call the church office (or me @ 770-921-7220) for more information .

Larry Bentley



What's For Dinner?

If you are missing Wednesday night dinners with your Eastminster friends then come join In Touch as we **DINE AROUND THE WORLD** during the summer months. All are invited to join us at 6:30 on these Wednesdays.

July 25th Sangria's

August 8th Matthews Cafeteria



Free summer movies on the lawn in Stone Mountain Village

Bring your blanket, lawn chair, and a donation of canned food items for our local food pantry. Movies will begin at sundown. No admission charge!

July 14 - Despicable Me

July 28 - The Smurfs

Aug. 11 - Mr. Popper's Penguins

922 Main St. Stone Mtn. 770-498-7334

stonemountainvillage.com

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH *THE STORY*!

The Story is a book of selections from the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31-week experience, every member of the family reads their own version of *The Story*. Come discover together with us how our story is found in God's story!

Our journey will be introduced on August 19

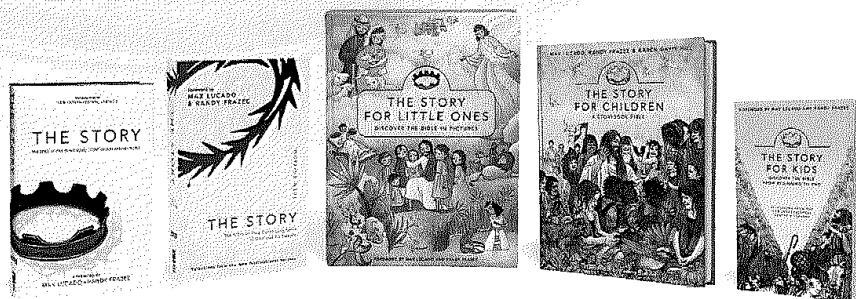
during the Sunday School Kickoff .

and at both the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services.

The Journey will begin on August 26

Are you intrigued? We hope so!

Check with Mardee or Caleb for details...



The Story is for every member of the family!

THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

5801 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.eastminster.us
eastminsterpres@yahoo.com
Contact: Paula McGill



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PHONE NUMBERS

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

DEADLINES

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. **Tuesday, July 31**
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Found:

- ♦ glass mixing bowl
- ♦ rectangular basket with carrying handles

Congratulations to...

Ramona and Dick Warren on the marriage of their daughter, Jessica, to Andrew Michael Williams on June 16.

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
Director of Preschool ~ Sarah Baldwin
Secretary ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac