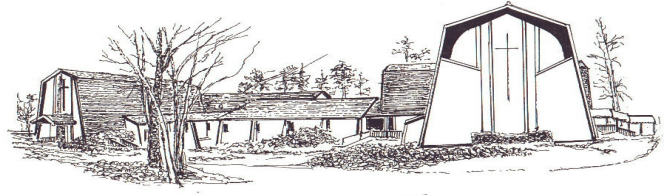


# THE WITNESS



The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all.

EPC Mission Statement ~ Adopted by Session 2011

**January 11, 2012**

## Why Missions?

There is no truth more clear in the New Testament than the truth declared by Jesus himself that we are to be involved in mission! The great command was to go into all the world and make disciples and to serve and to love. Our going out from our local congregations into the uttermost parts of the world in the name of Jesus Christ is not an optional way of life it is an obedient one. It has been said: "The church exists by missions, just as fire exists by burning!" We as Presbyterians believe that a worshipping church must be centered in missions and the church in mission must gather in worship. They cannot be separated.

## Why Mexico?

Eastminster is a church in mission. We support efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. Our annual trip to Mexico is our international mission effort and it represents the largest amount of time, energy, and financial resources. For over 20 years many members of Eastminster have gone and worked and served the community of Piedras Negros. It is what we do! It is where we go. Helping the people there in both their housing and medical/dental needs, Eastminster has left its mark there and will continue to mark the lives of those Mexican families as we look forward to our next trip this summer in July.

The trip is well planned and many that travel to Mexico each year go with years and years of experiences behind them. It is safe and the security and well being of all those who participate is a top priority. It is hot, it is hard, and it requires much work during the week we are there. But, it is not without reward both to those that go and give and those that receive the help.

## Why You?

We sometimes think that the whole idea of going on a missionary trip is just to give to someone who might be in great need or serve those that make up the least and the last of this world. But, going and serving is only part of it. In mission we leave the comfort and familiar world in which we live and we travel and live for a while in a different culture and world and we are changed by it. In true mission the ones that go become the object of a divine command and when we return we are no longer the same as when we left.

If you have not gone on a mission trip before maybe this year is the year for you and your family. Pray about it, talk to those who have gone before, and maybe 2012 is your year to go and I promise you will be enriched by it. But the deadline is almost upon us.

*Caleb*

If you have not received the weekly phone message  
from the church but would like to,  
please contact the Church Office  
with your correct telephone number!

## Mexico Mission Trip - July 14-21

Sign-up for the 2012 Mexico Mission Trip is happening now! The deadline to submit your name and a \$100 deposit (made payable to EPC) is Tuesday, January 31. Total tuition remains at \$700 per person for a life-altering experience you will never forget. This tuition covers registration, transportation, lodging and meals (except on Saturday-travel-days). Participants must be 16 years old unless accompanied by a parent. The only required skill is your willingness to serve Him. Not familiar with this trip? If you'd like more details, there are 202 missionaries who have made the trip with EPC – names happily provided! At the January 25 Wednesday night program, you'll be able to see a video from the 2011 mission trip and hear from some previous years' participants. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. (after dinner). Or, you may call or email Pam Hohenstreet at (404) 660-9622 or [p.hohenstreet@att.net](mailto:p.hohenstreet@att.net).



### Cupid's Aim: College Students and Beyond

Eastminster wishes to demonstrate how deeply we care for all our college students and others associated with our church. We always remember them monthly with seasonal cards and especially on Valentine's Day with special shoe boxes filled with numerous surprises. Donations of candy, granola bars, microwave popcorn, packets of cocoa mix, cheese and/or peanut butter crackers, pencils, pens, post it notes, highlighters, index cards, etc. are requested. Please bring them to the church no later than Sunday, Feb. 5 and deposit them in designated containers located in the narthex, church office, and preschool entrance. We will be packing 50 shoe boxes on Wed. morning, Feb. 8. Most will be going to our college students, but two missionary young adults and three seminarians will receive these wonderful Valentine gifts as well. Please come at 9:30 A.M. and assist with the assembly, packing, and wrapping if you are available.

### College address?

If your college student has a new address for this semester, please notify the church office!

### Found...

Lady's Christmas watch

### Note!

The Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, January 16 for  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



### February Birthdays

1	Matt Conaway	8	Alex Aycock	15	Carl Heckman	20	David Deal
	Soon-Ok Oh		Kinley Gall	16	Deborah Abraham		Joe Evans
	Madison Peters	9	William Fleck		Chris Smethers		Pat Sully
4	Ron Hickes		Brian Swinkola		Andrea Vincent	21	Kevin Carmichael
	Lynn Maxwell	10	Caroline Alff	17	Rose Marie Wells	22	Christy Howard
5	Leon Collins		Nicholas Frank	18	Shellie Bunce	24	Ruth Sullivan
6	Mary Acosta	12	Robert Agocs		Chip Carpenter	25	Callie Adams
	Sammy Meers		Carson Nix		Leah McCulloh	28	Cathy McCoy
7	Emily Bunce	13	Holly Eaton		Mallory Quillian		

## Confirmation

### Youth Dinners

The youth are in need of volunteers to prepare a meal for them on Sunday nights! If you or a committee you are a part of would like to prepare a meal and eat with the youth on a Sunday night please let Mark know and we will put you on the calendar. All kinds of food are welcome and appreciated.

A confirmation class is forming for the spring and we want to invite all 7<sup>th</sup> graders to sign up and participate! The class will begin on Sunday, February 5th at 9:45 a.m. and will end on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> with Confirmation during the 11 o'clock service. We will go on a Confirmation retreat to the Calvin Center on March 16-18 so plan to attend! The cost of the retreat will be \$90. Mark Sauls will be leading the class so please let him know soon if you are planning on participating so we will have enough books!



### Blood drive - Sunday, February 19

February is not only the month of Valentine's Day but is also celebrated as American Heart Month. Because blood supplies and donations are traditionally low and desperately needed during this time of year, your donation will impact many, giving them a chance at life. Donating your blood is absolutely the best way to show your love and commitment to the health of our own Church members and our community. Hebrews 13:2 charges us to "let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have entertained angels." Come be that angel and give from your heart...the gift of life. LifeSouth Blood Center will be here Sunday, February 19, 8:30-1 p.m. in the Gym. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex but all last minute donors are welcome. The only requirements are that you be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and bring your photo ID. Be a part of this very special Outreach ministry of EPC. You have the power to save a life!!!!



Outreach Committee



### Update on Presbyterian missionaries

Many people from Eastminster will remember our ministry to the family of Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell about 10 years ago. Dorothy had an extensive head injury that she received in a bicycle accident in Brazil, where they served as Presbyterian missionaries. Our Eastminster PW provided a meal each week for an extended period of time to the five members of their family living at Mission Haven, while Dorothy was receiving care at the Sheppard Center. She did recover from the injury, and the family returned to serve in Brazil until the Brazilian church was strong enough to send them back home. After three years of searching for a job in the U.S., Gordon and Dorothy will return to Balem, Brazil to begin church planting along the Amazon River. Their oldest son, John, is in Clinton, SC where he runs a firm that supports church web sites. Elizabeth graduates in May from Georgia State with a degree in social work. John will finish Decatur High School in May and will be inducted as a cadet at the Naval Academy in June. Prayers have been answered and will follow them in their work in the foreign mission field.

## Caring Tree 2011

Eastminster Presbyterian has a reputation of being an "Outreaching" church with a caring commitment to those in need. The Caring Tree project once again reinforced this priority of our church family. The committee that plans for the Caring Tree stepped out in faith to increase the number of families that we would serve, and Eastminster stepped right up to the challenge. We were able to provide Christmas gifts to 126 people through two nursing homes along with family names provided through the DeKalb and Gwinnett school systems, as well as, 12 families of Christian Burmese refugees living in Clarkston.

The pastor of a Florida Presbyterian church has seen an enormous response to the Heifer Project. When he was asked how his congregation could respond so generously at a time of year when most people are stretched to provide gifts for their own family and friends, he responded by noting that the members of the church have learned to give of their first fruits. Generosity and hope flow from the sharing. Eastminster also gives of their first fruits with so many of our families selecting cards in late November, and then putting Caring Tree shopping ahead of shopping for their own families. It truly is giving of the first of the harvest as God has commanded. What an example of compassion as a verb instead of just a noun we have provided to our children and those around us.

The camaraderie of the helpers, including the Junior and Senior High Sunday School classes, is contagious. With smiles on the faces of workers, packages are wrapped, and donations are augmented with additional stuffed animals, fruit, and gifts. The abundance is overwhelming. Even extra refugees that arrived after "the cut-off" date were able to receive a generous Christmas delivery. Every single recipient was treated with dignity and love.

Delivery of the gifts is a true joy. Bringing black plastic bags stuffed with presents and then pulling out boxes and bags wrapped in Christmas finery is such a joy to the people delivering and to the families receiving. It is an overwhelming privilege to deliver presents to the stark apartment of a refugee family that is furnished mainly with furniture and Christmas decorations from Eastminster families. Our church has indeed made a difference to these people. We have been the face of Jesus to them, and their appreciation is overwhelming.

A huge part of the Caring Tree has been the delivery of bicycles to both children and adults. Several families that were referred by the schools received bikes for the children, and 6 of the refugee families received bikes for the adults. For the refugees a bicycle is the family transportation with MARTA being out of their price range and a family car totally out of the question. Fifteen minutes after one bike was delivered, we received a call saying the father was on his way to the grocery store on his new bike. Our own blessings are put into a different perspective, when we see how our small gifts have so positively affected these families.

So Eastminster Presbyterian Church, please know that you have been the hands of God this Christmas season. The need remains all year long, and your contributions of clothes, furniture and household goods to our Clothes Closet helps a myriad of people through Lilburn Coop, Mission Haven, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, and the Burmese refugee families of Columbia Presbyterian Church. You have brightened the lives of so many nursing home residents that have no family support, and the staff and recipients are so appreciative. A new year brings additional opportunities to put your faith into action, so go forth and bring your first fruits to the Lord!



### Cyber-Bullying

A program for everyone who uses technology  
and social media

Sunday, January 22 ~ 6:30-7:30  
Adult Center

Cyber-bullying affects almost half of American teens.

Learn about the symptoms, consequences and coping  
with this new and destructive phenomenon.

### Class of 2011 Stephen

### Ministry Commissioning

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives an example of commissioning. On January 22 during 11 a.m. worship the current class of Stephen Ministry will be commissioned to carry on and affirm the importance of the call of Mary Acosta, Rick Adle, LaRue Gerard, Peggy McCurdy, Scott Uthlaut and Helen Wilborn to a ministry of care and concern for EPC and her community.

# Music at Eastminster

## *Thank you...*

...to all who sang, rang, played, directed, supported, and encouraged the making of music to the glory of God in the joyous season of Christmas. Your time, effort, and dedication were an offering to the Lord and a gift to His people at Eastminster.

...to all who brought cookies for the Christmas Cookie Celebration after Lessons and Carols. Your cookies were delicious and enjoyed by all! The remaining cookies were gathered and sorted into the lovely tins you donated. When all was said and done, we delivered **99 dozen cookies** as well as bags of cakes, pastries, and personal toiletries to three area shelters. You made it possible to share some joy with those in God's family who are facing difficult times.

*Soli Deo gloria*

## **Chancel Choir Winter Retreat**

**Saturday - January 21st 9:00 am - 11:30 pm**

If you enjoy singing and serving the Lord, come to the choir winter retreat. We will meet in the Choir Room at Eastminster for a time of Worship, fellowship, and to practice upcoming anthems and music for the Spring Choir Concert.

If you cannot commit to sing in the choir each week but are still interested in singing for the Spring Concert, please come on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be three additional Saturday morning rehearsals to prepare the concert music. Please call the music office if you have questions or want more information.



## **Kirking of the Tartans** **Sunday ~ February 12th ~ 11:00 am**



Our annual service of Morning Worship with pipers and tartans reflecting the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church with music past and present highlighting the traditions of the reformed church. A shortbread reception will follow in Fellowship Center.

## **Dates to Remember**

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday  
Eastminster Orchestra  
12:15 pm - Adult Center

January 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday  
Concert Choir Retreat and  
Concert Choir Rehearsal  
Choir Room - 9:00 am

January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday  
Eastminster Orchestra  
at 11:00 Worship

February 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday  
***Kirking of the Tartans***  
11:00 am Worship

Joyful Noise & Jubilation practice  
at Tucker Methodist 4:45 pm

Chancel Bells will not meet tonight

February 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday  
Concert Choir Rehearsal  
Choir Room 9:00 am

February 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday  
Joyful Noise & Jubilation sing  
and sign with *Little Light of Mine*  
Tucker First U. M. Church 11:00 am

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - *Ash Wednesday*  
Kids Kwires will meet 6:30 - 7:00  
*(Please Note Change)*  
7:00- Service of Ashes  
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday  
Eastminster Orchestra  
at 11:00 Worship

## Adult Sunday School Winter 2012

These classes will run from Jan. 8 through March 25 ~ 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

### Bible Sampler – Sally Jackson/ Marty Hillman

Adult Center #324C

**Book of the Bible (still to be determined)** This Bible study class looks in depth at one book of the Bible at a time.

### Seasons of Faith - Robert Thomson

Founders Hall #360

**Freedom of Simplicity** by Richard Foster articulates a creative, more human style of living and points the way for Christians to make their lives “models of simplicity.” Foster provides a way to rethink our priorities and to “seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness.” He shows us how to live in harmony with the rich complexity of life while stressing the relation of simplicity to prayer, solitude, and all the Christian Disciplines. Join in as we explore the double reality from an old Shaker hymn: “Tis a gift to be simple, Tis a gift to be free.”

### Women’s Faith and Life - Ginny Matthews

Room #323

**The God Who Hears** by Bingham Hunter “If God really cared he would answer my prayer.” “I hesitate to ask God anything.” “I can’t understand why he continues to ignore my deepest needs.” Recognizing that most believers have these thoughts from time to time, this class will look at prayer from the standpoint of who God is, for the true aim of prayer is intimacy with God. Hunter answers questions about prayer by directing us to the nature and attributes of God and to our own lives.

### Disciple Short Term Bible Study – Mardee Rightmyer

Room #208A

**Invitation to John** – This 12 week study of the Gospel of John will look at the long discourses Jesus has with Nicodemus and the woman at the well as well as invitations of Jesus to “come and see” and “follow me.” Participants will have daily reading assignments for group preparations.



## Ministry with Older Adults

is an

Older Adults Spiritually Integrating Self

Be a part of OASIS by living, participating, contributing . . .

OASIS will visit the exhibit “Passages” in Dunwoody

Sunday, January 29 Noon-4 p.m.

Lunch following worship

Transportation to and from exhibit

“Passages” explores biblical history, and houses more than 450 artifacts from private collection including Jewish scrolls of the Torah, large portions of the Gutenberg Bible, editions of the King James Bible that required corrections, and Martin Luther’s last will signed the night before his excommunication among others.

Cost is \$15.95. \$3 discount coupons are available. Please make a reservation by Wednesday, January 25 for lunch and the exhibit by calling the church office, 770-469-4881 or email [robertwthomsonjr@gmail.com](mailto:robertwthomsonjr@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Events ~ 10:30 - 12:30 in Adult Center

Thursday, February 9: B-Brunch ~ Bring your favorite dish to share. Study of 10 key events in Jesus’ life.

Thursday, February 23: Lunch 'n Learn ~ "Spirituality in Senior Moments". Please make a reservation for lunch.

## Wednesday Night Programs

- ◆ Jan. 18 - Book Discussion of *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles *Take This Bread* is a provocative, spiritual memoir of a twenty-first-century Christian. One discussion will not do it justice but maybe it will spark ongoing conversations!
- ◆ Jan. 25 – **Mexico Mission Review** The Mexico Mission Trip for 2012 is on the calendar for July 14-21. If you have ever given thought to going on this annual mission trip or simply want to know why some will be going again for their 20+ year in a row, do not miss this program. Video and personal testimonies will highlight last year’s trip and information about how you can be a part of this summer’s trip will be shared.
- ◆ Feb. 1 – Program - TBA - led by Mark Sauls
- ◆ Feb. 8 – “*I Am...*” Bible study on the “I Am...” saying of Jesus found in the gospel of John.
- ◆ Feb. 15 – Book Discussion of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This page turning young adult novel (the first of a trilogy) has captured the attention of youth across the country and will be released as a movie in March. The author wrote it in response to the ever growing “reality shows” on television. Youth who have read the book are especially encouraged to come to enrich the discussion through their insights. (By the way, an interesting tidbit for Presbyterians: the movie was filmed in Montreat, NC)
- ◆ Feb. 22 – **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**
- ◆ Feb. 29 – *Chasing the Wind* – The start of a five week Lenten study on Ecclesiastes led by Will Norman.



## 2012 Youth Calendar

January		
	22, Sun	Cyber-Bullying workshop (during Soulplay)
	29, Sun	Homeless Breakfast (meet at 5:45 a.m.)
February		
	5, Sun	Confirmation begins
	5, Sun	Souper Bowl of Caring
	10, Fri	Lock-In – Wii Night
	26, Sun	Global Village program with meal (6-8 p.m.)
March		
	16-18, Fri	Confirmation Retreat
April		
	1, Sun	Movie Night
	14, Sat	Braves vs Brewers (7:10 p.m.)
	29, Sun	Homeless Breakfast (meet at 5:45 a.m.)
May		
	TBD, Fri	Senior Dinner
	20, Sun	Confirmation
	20, Sun	Graduate Recognition Service
	20, Sun	End of the Year Party
June		
	10-16	Montreat Youth Camp
July		
	14-21	Mexico Mission Trip

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



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 45  
Stone Mtn. GA  
30086

**Return Service Requested**

**PHONE NUMBERS**

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

**DEADLINES**

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

---

**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 After School Program** ~ Celeste Sears  
**Director of Preschool** ~ Jennifer Neu  
**Secretary** ~ Paula McGill  
**Financial Secretary** ~ Jan Zabarac