

# 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

**May 9, 2012**

## “Ride in on a Donkey”

My first day at Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool, I sat in the quiet office of the Director with a stack of binders in front of me: “Registration 2012-2013”, “Immunization Forms”, “School Year 2011-2012”, and a blue, one-inch binder with no label. The blue binder had been passed along to me just days before by Jennifer Neu, the previous Preschool Director. Page one: “Duties of the Director.” I sat there reading through the list. One page turned into two, and the tally of duties had reached fifty. “I can do this,” I thought to myself.

I tried to imagine what the students and teachers would be like, and what my day would be like when school was back in session after Spring Break. I had a rapid-fire introduction to so many people in the loving Eastminster community, but the people I would be working with every day, I had yet to meet. That first quiet week, I went through binders and folders, read handbooks, looked at the list of events for the rest of the year, and tried to wrap my head around what Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool was all about. It became clear: this preschool is a legacy. Since 1968, directors, teachers, children, and church members have poured their energy and hearts into creating a caring, safe, and nurturing school. And from this realization, I began to compile a vision of who I wanted to be for this school, for this community, and for the children. While there is a solid foundation that decades of dedication have created, I can see the areas that need a fresh coat of paint.

My first Sunday at Eastminster was Palm Sunday. I sat in the Sanctuary for the first time. As Mardee Rightmyer invited the young children to come forward to the front of the church, Beverly Hutchinson sat to my right, leaned over and whispered, “The second one on the left, that’s Bella Acosta, she’s one of your preschoolers”. There sat little Bella, a smile on her face and ribbon in her hair, sporting the Sunday Church dress of a budding Southern belle. I couldn’t help but smile; the kids were a part of this job I knew I would love. “Does anyone know why Jesus rode in on a donkey and not a horse?” asked Mardee. The children looked left and right at each other until one little boy answered, “Because they didn’t have horses back then.” “Precious,” I thought to myself with a smirk.

As Mardee continued her sermon to the children, she explained that the donkey was an animal of peace and sign of humility; Jesus chose this animal to show the people of Jerusalem what kind of King he was. Jesus was there to bring peace to the people of Jerusalem, not to wage war. He was there to bring the change and hope His people so desperately needed.

As Christians, we look to Jesus as the example of how we should live our lives. “Ride in on a donkey,” I reminded myself as I drove to Eastminster that Monday morning after Spring Break. From the moment the first car door was opened at carpool, I knew I was where I was needed. It is with humility and hope for the future that I take on this position as Director of the Preschool. Thank you for opening your arms to welcome me. I feel incredibly blessed with this opportunity to be a part of the Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool legacy you have all worked to create.

Sarah Baldwin

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## Thank you!

Thank you so much for the sweet Valentine's Day Basket. The snacks, school supplies, and sweet messages really keep me going through the semester. I appreciate the thoughts and prayers so much. It is great to know my church family hasn't forgotten about me while I am at school. Thank you!

Megan Sumner

## Sympathy to...

Virginia McCrory on the death of her husband, Jim, on April 17.

## Found!

Magnifying glass



## Stone Mountain Co-op Urgent Need

Please consider placing a few of the items listed in your weekly grocery cart for the next few shopping trips because shelves are getting sparse: boxes of macaroni and cheese; bottles, cans or powdered juice; cold/hot cereal; peanut butter; box spaghetti; tuna fish, rice; all canned vegetables except green beans; canned fruit; soup; bar soap; toilet paper. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Outreach Committee



## June Birthdays

1	Terri Aycock	10	Lawrence Garrett	15	Carolyn Johnson	24	Carolyn Grest
	Linda Richardsen	12	Susan Bentley	18	Bill Bussey	26	Pete Craig
2	John Brieske		Melanie Hicks	19	Olen Duncan	27	Tom Grissom
3	Cassidy Nix		Benjamin Kapsch		Annie Flynn		Steven Weimar
	Ed Weaver		Joshua Williams		Rebecca Streich	28	Kelly Gobba
5	Nene Kisseih	14	Brian Adle	20	Jan Thompson		Paul Wade
	Robert Smith		Jennifer Alff	21	Benjamin Smith	29	Anne Dean
6	Howard Ripley		Teresa Hartle	22	Joel Price		Katherine Gordon
8	Tim Matthews		Bill Norman		Jacque Ripley	30	Dickie Bowes
	Jessica Warren		Chris Uthlaut	23	Lei Norman		



**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.



## Workday Success

### Notice:

The Church Office will be closed on Monday,  
May 28 for Memorial Day.

Heartfelt thanks from the Building and Grounds Committee go out to all 31 of our wonderful volunteers - including members of EPC's own Boy Scout Troop #876 - who gave up their Saturday morning on May 5th to help beautify the grounds and interior of our church. It was a time of fun and fellowship as we tackled many needed projects. Your commitment, time and talents made a big difference.



## Blood Drive - Sunday, May 20

Summertime will be here soon which also means there is a seasonal increased need for blood donations. There are many good reasons to give blood, but the **most** important one is that YOU WILL SAVE LIVES!! One out of every five people in a hospital needs blood - this could be you, your child, parent, husband or wife with this need. Your "Gift of life" will make a difference not only to that person and family, but will also reward your spirit. Scripture says "Give, and it shall be given to you. For whatsoever measure you deal to others, it will be dealt to you in return.



LifeSouth Blood Mobile will be here Sunday, May 20, 8:30 am-1 pm in the front church parking lot. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex but all last minute donors are welcome. To donate you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and bring a photo ID. Come give from your heart and share your blessings....your Gift of Life.

The Outreach Committee



## Vacation Bible School

June 4-8, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to  
explore the depths of God's Amazing love!

Registration forms are available in the church office or by contacting  
Mardee Rightmyer at [educator@eastminster.us](mailto:educator@eastminster.us)



## “Like” Us on Facebook!

Eastminster has a Facebook page but we need more “fans” to read our updates on events at EPC. If you’re on Facebook, just search for **Eastminster Presbyterian Church Stone Mountain** and click the “Like” button. EPC’s updates will then show up in your News Feed. Or, you can click Facebook in the left column of the home page on our website, [www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us), to go directly to Facebook. What can you find on our Facebook page? Photos, the stewardship videos, thoughts on and links to sermons, news about upcoming events – all that and more as we continue to add content. Once you’re connected to EPC on Facebook, you’ll get all the posts in your feed. Get plugged in – and spread the word to others. You can click “share” on any item in the news feed to share it with your own Facebook connections. EPC Preschool also is on Facebook – search for Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool and keep up with what our Preschool children are doing.

## Clerks Corner

### Highlights from minutes of April 15, 2012

- ◆ Rev. Joan Gray will be at EPC Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 PM to discuss the Presbytery's new Flexible Governance Plan (PGA1/PGA2). All are invited to hear about this change.
- ◆ Building and Grounds - Committee is looking into options for the security system. Assessment of a/c units found 4 not working. Tim Matthews is working to repair or replace those units. Continued work toward resolution of insurance claim regarding roof and repairs.
- ◆ Outreach – Undie Sunday May 6
- ◆ Weekday Ministries/Personnel - Jennifer Neu, the pre-school director resigned effective March 30. Sarah Baldwin has been hired as interim director to finish out the remaining school year.
- ◆ In Touch - Talent Show will be Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 PM. Committee is looking at a reading program with the after-school and also discussing a reimaged Salt Shakers.
- ◆ Ways and Means - Budget for March had an \$8,787.50 deficit with the YTD deficit of \$11,308.10.
- ◆ Ways and Means will be meeting in May to review reports from all committees and budget numbers for any revisions needed in order to insure a balanced budget to end the 2012 calendar year.
- ◆ Sr Adult Ministry – Ongoing events scheduled –Gwinnett Braves game, tour St Lukes Episcopal Church
- ◆ A called meeting is set for Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of examining the Confirmation Class prior to their joining the church on May 20.



## 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.

- June 13th Enzo's Pizza (Tucker location)
- June 27th Panda Express (Highway 78 in front of Lowe's)
- July 11th Dan Thai (Lilburn, off Oak Road at 5 Forks Trickum)
- July 25th Sangria's
- August 8th Mathews Cafeteria



THE WITNESS IS  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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**Return Service Requested**

**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. **Thursday, May 31**  
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

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**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