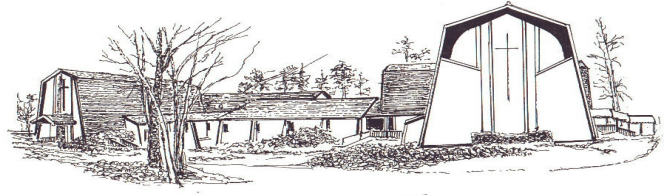


THE WITNESS



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

March 14, 2012

February 22

So, how has your life changed since February 22? Has anything in the way you live been different since that day? There have been times when the 22nd day of February has made a difference.

It was a day that made a difference in the life of a nation. Back in 1732 a boy was born to Augustine and Mary Ball Washington and they called his name George. Although people probably did not realize it at once, this boy's life would go on to make a difference in the lives of countless individuals. It took wars and campaigns, victories and defeats, but it became apparent to many that this boy named George helped shape not only this nation in particular, but the entire world in general. His face appears on stamps, coins, dollar bills, mountains and monuments and he even carries the title of father of our great country. And it all began on that day: the 22nd of February, 1732.

It was also a day that made a difference to an itinerant preacher and his wife in 1922. It was a cold morning in Turkey Creek, Florida, as Reverend Tatom and his wife welcomed the birth of their fifth child and named her Melvine. People did not know it then but this girl would grow up and make a difference too. She was not well educated and in fact she never went past high school, she never championed a campaign, commanded an army or led a nation. She was just a wife and a mother. But she made a difference in the life of one person. Oh, you would not recognize her because outside of family photographs she is just another face. But she made a difference to me because she was my mom. And it all began on that day: the 22nd of February, 1922.

February 22, 2012 was Ash Wednesday and as usual we gathered in the sanctuary and marked the day with reverence and worship. We gathered and remembered how we are all but ash except for the love, mercy, and grace of our God. Some folks were reminded that all they have comes from God and in response to that they freely gave up something they like as a token of their gratitude. Others felt they should just deny themselves of a pleasure to show they recognized the importance of the Lenten Season. Still others have decided to spend more time in prayer and in reading God's Word to help focus their lives toward Him and away from self.

Did you let the busyness of life distract you from the significance of the Lenten Season? It is not too late. Easter is around the corner and it is then we celebrate the difference that Jesus Christ has made for his people in general but the difference he has made in each of us, specifically. That difference is a life of love and light and wholeness. It is all about what God gives to us. This time of Lent is a time we can intentionally change and be distracted from the ordinary by the One who is holy. Remember we are in a special time and it began on the 22nd day of February, 2012.

Blessings,

Caleb

Tartans

Eastminster had another wonderful Kirking of the Tartans service on February 12. The service is always well attended and very meaningful to all that attend. This was the first year EPC had it's own tartans in the procession and what a special time for those that carried their tartans, gifts to EPC! Currently, EPC has seven tartans, with another one on order.

If you would like to order a tartan please let me know. The cost of the tartan is \$150. This covers the cost of the fabric, the poles, the supports and any other associated costs. We would like to have a special place constructed at the church to house the tartans for the future. Please e-mail me, call me or let me know if you would like to purchase a tartan as a gift to EPC.

Cynthia Heckman
 e-mail: cmhrdh@hotmail.com



Thank you!

- ◆ Thank you so much for my Valentine's Day care-box! It certainly was a highlight of my day and put a smile on my face. Thank you!

Brett Wilmot

- ◆ The Valentine box is awesome-it was so full that I'm still finding surprises. Jim and Catherine have been allowed to seek treasures in the box as well, so the whole family is having fun with it. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. I'm munching on chocolate as I study Mark!

Love, Jeanne Simpson

- ◆ Thank you for the comforting calls, cards and visits after the death of my mother. I have such an awesome church family. God bless you.

Lynn Maxwell



April Birthdays

1	Dan Dansberry	8	Tara Dillard	13	Elizabeth Willis	23	Carol Carmichael
	Norman Delong	9	Jinny McCrory	15	Jeanne Simpson	25	Jennifer Edwards
	Suzanne Norman	11	Karsyn Frank	16	Mary Ann Howard		Andrew Hutchinson
	Audra Swinkola		Marty Hillman	17	Ann Clements		Andrew Swift
4	Beth Mitchell	12	Zandie Burger		Henrietta Kisseih	29	Suzanne Smethers
6	Gary Bennett		Sally McMillan	18	Marion Hannah	30	Martha Gaskill
	Richard Whittier	13	Don Crawford	19	Megan Sumner		Stone King
7	Mary Bentley		Amanarh Kisseih	21	Rodger Chapman		Abigail Smith
	James Gaskill		Hodges Willis	22	Scott Uthlaut		

Note!

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 9 for Easter.



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.

Attention Eastminster Women

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Synod of the South Atlantic wishes to extend an invitation to all Presbyterian women to attend the 25th Annual Gathering at 1:00 on March 18 at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 1978 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody. Agenda will include: Lunch, Worship and Communion Service, Spiritual Message, Business Meeting, Approval of 2012-2013 Proposed Budget, and Election and Installation of Officers. If you are planning to attend, please contact your circle leader or the church office 770-469-4881 by March 15 so car pools can be organized. Please peruse the PW bulletin board located in the 3rd floor hallway between the church sanctuary and educational building for more information.



PW Summer Opportunity

Please consider joining other Presbyterian women from around the U.S. for our annual 2012 Churchwide Gathering in Orlando, FL July 18-22. The theme is "River of Hope" and will be held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel. For registration and more information please contact: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pwgathering/>



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 beginning the first week of April. 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

Meet the Challenge Throughout March and April



We have decided to meet the "Challenge" head-on and extend our Food Drive for the next two months. 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	sugar	small jars coffee
soup	dry and hot cereal	jelly
peanut butter	dry and Parmalat milk	tuna
rice	jello	canned vegetables
instant grits	instant oatmeal	dried beans
canned fruit	canned meat	boxed mac and cheese
canned pasta	no-sugar cereal	macaroni, spaghetti, fettuccini
spaghetti, Alfredo and pesto sauce	bottled and boxed juice	toothpaste
liquid and bar soap	toothbrush	shaving cream
disposable razor	diapers	shampoo
baby wipes	Wet Ones	laundry and dish detergent
toilet paper	Kleenex	paper towels



Undie Sunday

Extra! Extra! Read all about it: the Outreach Committee votes YES for "Undie Sunday" to be a GO on May 6.

Were you ever told to make sure you had clean underwear on when you were going out in case you had an accident and had to be taken to the hospital? 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's a heavy emphasis on children, teens and small adult sizes. 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

Music at Eastminster

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

April 22nd ~ 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. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.* 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 PSALMS

The Psalter, or Book of Psalms, is the first book of the "Writings" (*Kethubhim* or *Hagiographa*), i.e. the third section of the printed Hebrew Bible of today. The word *psalms* is derived from the Greek: *Psalmoi*, originally meaning "songs sung to a harp", from *psallein* "play on a stringed instrument"

In the Hebrew Psalter, all but thirty-four of the psalms have titles. These titles tell us one or more of five things about the psalms: (a) the author, or, perhaps, collection; (b) the historical occasion of the song; (c) its poetic characteristics; (d) its musical setting; (e) its liturgical use.

New Testament references show that the earliest Christians used the Psalms in worship, and the Psalms have remained an important part of worship in most Christian Churches. The Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches have always made systematic use of the Psalms, with a cycle for the recitation of all or most of them over the course of one or more weeks

During the Protestant Reformation, a number of Bible texts were interpreted as requiring reforms in the music used in worship. The Psalms were particularly commended for singing; Colossians 3:16 states "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." See also Ephesians 5:19-20 - the theme text for the choir concert on April 22nd.

As a result, verse paraphrases of the Psalms were written in vernacular poetry and set to music. These were particularly popular in the Calvinist tradition, where they were typically sung to the exclusion of all other hymns. Calvin himself made some French translations of the Psalms for church usage. Among famous metrical settings of the Psalter were the Scottish Psalter (earliest version was 1546) and the settings by Isaac Watts. The Scottish Psalter of 1615 was the most influential - it provided a set of "common tunes" to which the Psalms could be sung. Metrical settings of the Psalms have been continually updated to keep the language current. A recent example is *The Psalter for Christian Worship* by Michael Morgan (faculty of Columbia Seminary and organist at Central Presbyterian Church), published in 1999. This is the Psalter from which we most frequently sing.

Dates to Remember

March 17th - Saturday
Concert Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room 9:00 am

March 18th - Sunday
4th Sunday of Lent
Eastminster Orchestra
at 11:00 Worship

March 25th - Sunday
5th Sunday of Lent
Music from Eastminster
Eine kleine Bachmusik
3:00 pm - Sanctuary

April 1st - Sunday
Palm Sunday ~ Passion Sunday
Chancel Bells at 11:00 Worship
Regular Sunday evening schedule

April 5th - Friday
Good Friday ~ A Service of Tenebrae
Offerings of music by
our combined choirs
7:30 pm - Sanctuary

April 8th - Sunday
Celebration of the Resurrection
No evening rehearsals

April 15th - Sunday
2nd Sunday of Easter
Sonshine Singers at 11:00 Worship

April 21st - Saturday
Concert Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room 9:00 am

April 22nd - Sunday
3rd Sunday of Easter
Eastminster Orchestra
Joyful Noise & Jubilation
at 11:00 Worship
~ ~ ~

Music from Eastminster
Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs
6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Programs

March 21 & 28 – Will Norman completes his **Bible Study “Chasing the Wind: A Study of Ecclesiastes”**

April 4 - Spring Break - and Holy Week - **No Program**. There will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

April 11 - Book Club: Poetry of Mary Oliver and Billy Collins. Read any of the books by either poet (both are prolific) or pick up a packet of the poems that we will discuss from the church.

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 - TBA

May 2 - TBA

May 9 - Weekday Ministry presents a play: **“Daisy Head Maisy”** by Dr. Seuss.

May 16 - Children’s Choirs Performance. Final Wednesday program before summer.



Congrats!

Congratulations to Morrison Nolan as he begins his Eagle Scout project. If you would like to help him with this project, please contact him 770-717-0360.



EPC Talent Show

After more than a few years the tension is building for the EPC talent show. The In Touch and Congregational Life Divisions are sponsoring a talent show on Saturday evening, April 28th. This epic program of talented singers, musicians, comedians, and talent of all kinds will be an evening you won't forget. If you would like to participate in this pageant of epic proportions please send an email describing your talent to rfapics@hotmail.com. We will be assembling a show of unbelievable talent (we hope). Everyone will want to be there on Saturday, April 28th.

Older Adults Still In Service

and upcoming events:

Lunch~N~Learn, Thursday, March 22, 10:30 Adult Center

If you think your life is too boring, think again!! Everyone has memories and all you have to do is jar them and write them down. Dick Baumgardner has been sharing his gifts of helping others write their own biographies to pass on to their families. He is 86 years old, and has revised his own biography 5 times!! An interesting and informative program. Assorted subs and sides provided for lunch.



B-Brunch, Thursday, April 5, 10:30 Adult Center

Holy Week and the Bible. We will study about the Paschal Triduum (the three final days of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). Please bring a brunch dish to share. Rumor has it Helen Wilborn is baking a ham with a special glaze!

Lunch~N~Learn, Thursday, April 26 Adult Center

OASIS to the quarry! Did you know the largest granite quarry in the United States is located in Norcross, and is a spur of Stone Mountain? We will visit Vulcan Materials Norcross granite quarry beginning at the observation deck, and then heading deep down in to the quarry in the church vehicles. 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, and the group can decide where to go for lunch.



Take me out to the ball park~Gwinnett Braves, Saturday, May 5, 7:05 p.m.

We will leave from EPC at 5 p.m. to see the Gwinnett Braves vs. the Charlotte Knights. Group rate available and we will have a picnic supper at the ball park. More details to come. Mark your calendars now, and please make a reservation with the church office.

THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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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. **Friday, March 30**
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 School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool ~ Jennifer Neu
Secretary ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac