

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

June 12, 2013

Ministry of Members

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- ♦ proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- ♦ taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- ♦ lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- ♦ studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- ♦ supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- ♦ demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- ♦ responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- ♦ living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- ♦ working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- ♦ participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- ♦ reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful

This is not just something I think, but it is the guide for all of us both in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and here at Eastminster. This is what we all promised to do and be when we joined the church. So, do me a favor and read again the above section [taken from our Book of Order describing what membership includes]. How do you think you are doing? That is what the last point is asking us to do on a regular basis. We need to evaluate ourselves, honestly.

As we enter the summer season we focus on a lot of different things: we have trips planned, we have special outings, and we just shift gears. This is good and right but we need to remember our call and responsibilities because our call does not take the summer off.

We have made the summer as friendly here at EPC as we can.

- ♦ A cool, casual 10 A.M. Service each Sunday morning
- ♦ Interactive Vespers each Sunday evening at 7 P.M.
- ♦ A variety of Wednesday evening meals and fellowship offerings
- ♦ Your session and committees continue to plan worship and service

Prayerfully consider your commitment to Jesus Christ and our part of his church we call EPC, and if you desire to deepen that commitment I would love to be of help. Part of my service is to support each person here at EPC in their *Ministry of Membership*. My prayer is that we all get some rest this summer but at the same time may we be restored in our walk with our Savior and strengthened for our service in His name.

Blessings,

Caleb Clarke

School Supplies for Co-ops

This year Stone Mtn. and Lilburn Co-ops have updated their lists to include these items. Check out the sale items in July and please bring them to the church no later than Sunday, August 4. Designated containers will be placed in the narthex, hall adjacent to church office, and Preschool entrance.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 hole notebooks (1 1/2", 2", 2 1/2") | glue & glue sticks |
| 3 hole soft pencil pouches | pencil sharpeners w/covers |
| 3x5 index cards | plain pocket folders w/& w/o brads |
| blue ink pens | #2 pencils (no mechanical) |
| clear, mesh or regular book bags | blunt & sharp scissors |
| washable color markers | wide ruled notebook paper |
| composition books | wide ruled spiral notebooks |



The Co-op is in need of ...

toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothpaste, shampoo, women's large Depends, baked beans, soup, corn, peas, pasta and rice packets, canned fruit, hot cereal, canned spaghetti, tuna and bar soap.

Let the blessings flow!

Many women around the globe will receive the education and assistance they so desperately need because of the generous contributions from Eastminster PW. Thank you for donating \$722 to our annual Birthday Offering and \$320 toward the purchase of Mother's Day cards.



July Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Carol Cloninger | 8 David Morgan | 14 Michael Watchulonis | 27 Addy Kisseih |
| Evelyn Edwards | 9 Sandra Smethers | 15 Alan Abraham | 28 Alice Day |
| 2 Lucy Gratton | 10 Ralph Chandler | Linda Redman | Kennet Sorenson |
| Mary Katherine Mitchell | Karen Foster | 16 Bob Waggoner | Anne Lawing |
| Jane Smith | Andrew Wilmot | 18 Norman Harrison | 29 Ann Malloy |
| 3 Catherine Carmichael | 11 Trey Deal | 21 Susan Weimar | 31 Jennifer Gordon |
| Caleb Clarke | Al Stacer | 23 Art Zegel | |
| 5 Laurie Nielson | 12 Vickie Carpenter | 24 Pam Hohenstreet | |
| 7 Matthew Streich | 13 Richard Petty | 25 Martha Carrick | |

Clerk's Corner

Excerpts From Minutes of May 19 Stated Session Meeting

Christian Education – Summer Vesper services began June 2 at 7:00 PM – interactive, inner-generational programs. VBS will be July 8-12, 9:30 -12:30. Sign-up has begun.

Deacons and Congregational Care and Life committee will join together for informal worship services in member's homes for three Wednesday evenings during the summer. More details to follow.

Weekday Ministries- Registration for fall pre-school is underway. Summer camp for after-school program began May 23. OASIS will be continuing their reading program with the pre-school in the fall.

Building and Grounds - Committee would like to thank the 35 folks who participated in the workday, Saturday, April 27. Grounds and building looked great for the Presbytery meeting held at EPC on May 2.

Outreach- EPC delivered 86 bags of food to Stone Mtn. Co-Op and 27 to Lilburn. The joint youth and adult mission trip to Thornwell Orphanage will be July 14 -20. Cost for adults will run @ \$20 per day. Session approved payment of \$1,000 from the ECHO reserves to help with the funding to bring Martin Mwangi and his wife to Atlanta so that he can be treated at Sheppard Spinal Center.

Ways and Means –Budget continues to be in the black for month ending April 2013. YTD \$29,261.79. Committee is looking for Stewardship campaign chair and someone to chair the Capital Campaign.

Session approved the following change for the summer meetings: June meeting will be June 23 following the 10:00 AM Worship service. No July meeting. August 18 following 10:00 AM Worship.

Reminder - Copies of the current Financial Summary are on the volunteer's desk in the office.



What's For Dinner?

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

- June 19th Greater Good Barbecue (Tucker)
- July 10th Pool Party/Cookout at the Adle's **Time 5:30, Please bring a dish to share
- July 24th Las Colinas (Tucker)
- August 7th Big Joy (St. Mountain)
- August 21st Always Fresh (Lilburn)



Hail to the Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to the following volunteers who unloaded items, stocked shelves, and prepared bags of food for clients at the Stone Mtn. Co-op during May 9-31. Your cheerful attitude and willingness to serve have made a difference in our community.

Larry Bentley, Ann Bussey, Carol Carmichael, Linda Chapman, Mary Clarke, Annie Ruth Counts, Ben Gerard, Mary Ann Howard, Kathy Peters, Benjamin Smith, Charlene Smith, Charles Smith, Jane Smith, Marriner Smith, Pat Sully, Janet Uthlaut, Scott Uthlaut.

Outreach Committee



Thank you!

- ♦ John and I would like to say Thank you for all the Prayer Concerns, phone calls, Pastoral hospital visits, Get Well cards, flower delivery, meal from the church and offer for meals during the time of John's illness, all of which we found consoling. John is on the road to a slow recovery. However, we are grateful each day for the many blessings which has been bestowed on us.

Sincerely, John and Barbara Morgan

- ♦ Thank you for all of the prayers and concern. It means a lot to me and I am feeling better already.

Love, Marissa Hicks

- ♦ While it does not take a health miscue to know what great members we have in our church, it does indeed confirm what a blessing it is to be a part of the Eastminster family. The attention you gave to me during my "bump in the road" by way of expressions of concern, the beautiful red carnation brought to me by my Deacon Annie Ruth while in the hospital, and especially your prayers truly warmed the cockles of this old man's heart. I do not have adequate words to fully express my gratitude.

Thank you, Tom Grissom

- ♦ With my academic year coming to an end, I thought I should thank you for the support throughout my Plebe year. They say you can divide your time at the Academy into three parts. The first third is Plebe Summer. Next comes Plebe year. Your remaining three years make up the final third of the journey through the Academy. They also say it gets easier with time, which I can attest to so far. Nonetheless, I know that I could not have made it here alone. Thank you for my letters and my well timed care packages. They really meant a lot to me and cheered me up for weeks to come. In fact, I pinned my letters on my 2x2 corkboard to be reread for encouragement. I still love them...and I plan on keeping them to show my family one day. Please pass this letter onto the Eastminster Presbyterian Church-Presbyterian Women as well. I know that countless prayers have been instrumental in my success. Finally, I hope your Memorial Day has been as relaxing as mine.

In Christ, David T. Gartrell, MIDN USN

Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon Highlights

The birthday luncheon was held on Sunday, May 5th, with a delicious assortment of salads and birthday cake enjoyed by all. There were close to 50 attending the luncheon and presentation by Dr. Barbara Nagy. Dr. Nagy spoke of her ministry in Malawi in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in the hospital clinic. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Health from Emory University.

The lifetime membership award was presented to a very deserving Annie Ruth Counts. New officers were installed for 2013-2014, and a special recognition for Audrey Maly, who has served 15 years as treasurer, was given. A Japanese red maple will be planted in the prayer garden in honor of Audrey's years of service.

Moderator Sally McMillan
 Vice Moderator Rene Boven
 Secretary Kelly Gunter
 Treasurer Bunny Smith
 Historian Marjory Crawford
 Publicity Linda Chapman
 College Ministry Susan Adle
 Missions Janet Uthlaut

There are three Bible circles at Eastminster, and if you aren't participating, you are missing out on a wonderful fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Hope to see you in the fall when the circles resume their bible study.

The 2013 Presbyterian Lifetime Membership Award was presented to Annie Ruth Counts. Photographed with her are her daughter, Louise Collins, and husband, Marty Counts.



Audrey Maly was given a special recognition for her 15 years of service as the PW treasurer by outgoing moderator Janice Wilmot.



Dr. Barbara Nagy was the speaker and discussed her ministry in the hospital clinic in Malawi.

Where in the World is Fred? Drastic Redo!



[To have this story make sense, translate “Fred” (Norwegian -hence the gnome) to its English equivalent: Peace.]

“Where in the world is Fred?” is what the Christian Education committee asked itself as we faced the reality that we would not have enough children to make VBS a vibrant and challenging event for them. We explored ways to find more children but even if each child we have coming brought several friends with them, we would not have enough to create a critical mass. SO, WHAT TO DO?

Seeking peace for all, we are restructuring the theme and the curriculum into five events to be held at various times over five weeks. Here is the creative restructured VBS plan:

Sunday, June 30 Peace Within We will meet at the home of Paula Parkinson (bring your swim suit – she has a pool!). Through games in and around the pool we’ll learn about inner peace.

TBA Peace in the Home A visit to *Our House* in Decatur, GA. *Our House*, celebrating its 25th year of ministry, is located on the campus of Columbia Presbyterian Church. It provides care during the day for children of homeless families, while the parents look for employment and get back on their feet.

TBA Peace in the Neighborhood A visit to a fire station and a police station. Remembering Rev. Fred Rogers’ quote about scary things that happen: “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”, we will visit with first responders in our neighborhoods.

TBA Peace in the World A visit to the Carter Center to learn about their work to eliminate river blindness and work for peace around the world.

Sunday, July 28 Dedication of a Peace Pole Everyone in the congregation is invited to a cookout and vespers which will involve the planting and dedication of a peace pole outside the preschool entrance to the church.

Can you sew?

The Preschool needs your help! We are in need of new shelf covers in our Preschool classrooms. If you are interested in helping us create some bright, new additions to our classrooms, please contact Sarah Baldwin at preschool5801@gmail.com. Your help would be tremendously appreciated!



Hats off to...

Annie Ruth Counts who was presented the Presbyterian Women's Life Membership Award at our annual Birthday luncheon on May 5. She has generously and joyfully devoted numerous hours at Eastminster as a Deacon, Elder, Sunday School Teacher, Stephen Minister, as well as serving on various committees. Her contribution as our church secretary for many years will never be forgotten. Her smiling face, cheerful attitude, and compassion for others welcomed and encouraged those who visited the office to return time after time for pleasant conversation and a listening ear. Indeed, we are blessed to have her in our midst!



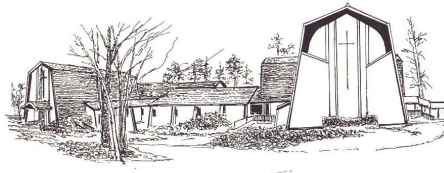
Reaching out to families in the Burmese community

We were so blessed one Sunday in May to have the Burmese families from Clarkston share their gift of song and praise with our congregation in appreciation for including them in our "Caring Tree" project the last few Christmas seasons. Now we have an even greater opportunity to touch their lives in other meaningful endeavors throughout the year. The next time you go shopping please consider placing jasmine rice, all varieties of canned beans, canned chickpeas, lentils, and snacks for children in your grocery cart. Bring them to the church and put them in a designated container marked for "Burmese Families." Thank you for your generosity and support. Outreach Committee

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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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 ~ 4 p.m. Thursday, June 27
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Director of Family Ministries ~ Mark Sauls
Director of Christian Education ~ Mardee Rightmyer
Interim Choir Director ~ Theresa Perry
Director of School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool ~ Sarah Baldwin
Communications Coordinator ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarak