

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 10, 2013

*7/1/13 A few weeks ago I wrote the following thoughts about my experience on the Music Search Committee.
I hope that in sharing this experience you will become updated about our work,
but also consider your own call to service to Eastminster and beyond!*
Peggy McCurdy

There is something so deeply satisfying about being part of something bigger than yourself. Whether it is being part of a staff, a committee, a church or a family, we can only do so much when left to our own devices. When different members come together with their own unique gifts, and work together toward a common goal, so much more can be accomplished. When you invite God into the venture, individually and collectively, even more amazing things can happen.

For close to a year I have been privileged to be part of a search committee to find a new Director of Music. When I was first asked to consider this I was completely confounded and overwhelmed. I did not understand what gifts I could possibly offer that would help on this quest since I had not been in a choir since I was 12 years old. For some reason still not exactly clear to me I agreed to serve, and it turned out to be a really meaningful experience.

As we began our work we tried to discern what new thing God was doing at our church. Our previous Music Minister had served for 20 years and left some big shoes to fill. Our perspectives and our preferences for music varied widely, but we worked to find the common ground. Our individual gifts quickly became apparent and we all quickly relied on each other for expertise. We spent time talking about our differences and perspectives and we learned to value what each member brought to the table. We were open, vulnerable and transparent with each other, and we built trust. There was a great awareness and faith that God was working in the midst of all of this, and in us. It was something very special, and by the time we found our candidate we were really of one mind and we all felt blessed to have been part of the experience.

I can't help but believe this is but a microcosm of a bigger picture. If we as a committee, a staff, a church or a family can truly discuss our differences, find our common ground, find a common mission, and value what each member brings to the table we could accomplish so much. And when we invite God in to the picture, the possibilities are limitless.

Romans 12:2-5

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

See page 3 for details on our chosen candidate!

Thank you!

Many thanks to Caleb and the congregation for all the cards, food and especially the prays during my illness and treatments!

Linda Petty



Save the date

There will be a reception for Theresa Perry on Sunday, July 28 in Founders Hall. Please join us following the 10:00 service as we express our heartfelt thanks for her service as Interim Music Director.



August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Harley Drury | 8 Benjamin Hamburger | 17 Nancy Gaskill | 24 Ron Lee |
| Ryan Nix | 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 | Lynn Stacer |
| 7 Ann Lee Bussey | Charlene Smith | Jan Zabarac | |
| Michael Hartle | 15 Lisa McManus | 21 Rene' Boven | |
| Helen Wilborn | 16 Jung Oh | 22 Tom Gordon | |

Meet Our New Music Director

Last August, our search committee was authorized by Session to find a new Director of Music. After almost a year of discernment, meetings, interviews, and auditions, we are pleased to introduce our choice -- **Andrew Meade**. Andrew is a young man with excellent musical skills and a commitment to Christ, and we are excited about his arrival in early August. Andrew was born in Canada and has an undergraduate music degree from Dalhousie University and a Master of Music degree in sacred music with emphasis in organ performance and choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. He has extensive work experience in church music, most recently as Organist/Choirmaster at the First Presbyterian Church in Strasburg, PA. His musical tastes, abilities, and leadership experience include both traditional and contemporary Christian music, and he will lead all of our musical programs, including 9 AM and 11 AM worship, children's and youth choirs, and additional ensembles such as bells.

Andrew is married to Joy Meade, who will be attending UGA for a doctorate in choral conducting. Joy is a talented soprano, pianist and violinist. They have a one-and-a-half year old daughter, Lydia.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Theresa Perry, who has served this past year as our interim Music Director. Theresa has done a wonderful job in very difficult circumstances. Her commitment to EPC's spiritual life through music has been a guiding light in getting us through the transitions of the past year, and we are all in a better place now because of her dedication and hard work. Thank you Theresa!

The Search Committee

(Audra Swinkola, Chip Wilmot, Peggy McCurdy,

Richard Kellogg, Kathe Gowland, Caroline Thompson, and David Morgan)



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.

July 24th Las Colinas (Tucker)

August 7th Big Joy (St. Mountain)

August 21st Always Fresh (Lilburn)



Where in the world is FRED*??



Everyone is invited to a special event for FRED* as we celebrate together on Sunday, July 28. There will be a cookout in the courtyard beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a peace parade and dedication of a new Peace Pole outside the pre-school entrance to the church during Vespers at 7:00 p.m. (If it rains we will be in the gym.)

The peace parade will be a "shoe box trolley". (Search the web with "shoe box parade" for illustrations of this event.) Each shoe box will be decorated with a peace theme by any individual or group that would like to participate. All supplies will be provided; just bring your best ideas about peace!

The peace pole is a beautiful 8 foot, four sided pole with the words "Let peace prevail on earth" written in four languages. We have chosen English, Spanish, Norwegian (FRED means peace in Norwegian)* and Aramaic - the language of Jesus. It will be a permanent reminder to all who enter that we are to be about peace in the world. You can also learn about the peace pole on the web at www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html

Wanted!

Gently used sofa for the After School Program.



Congratulations to...

Marilyn Dunn on the birth of her twin granddaughters and Mary Gasser's great granddaughters Hayden Summer and Edie Valentine born July 1. Proud parents are Jeff and Crystal Knutson of Dallas, TX.



School Supplies for Co-ops

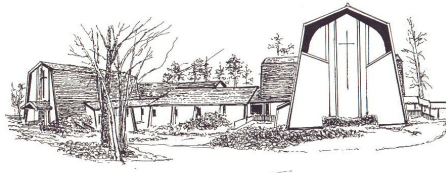
This year Stone Mtn. and Lilburn Co-ops have updated their lists to include these items. Check out the sale items in July and please bring them to the church no later than Sunday, August 4. Designated containers will be placed in the narthex, hall adjacent to church office, and Preschool entrance.

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

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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. Wednesday, July 31
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 Zabarac