

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

August 14, 2013

The “Whole World”

The start of the school year is always my favorite time. Our veteran children come back having grown inches over the summer, and our new children come in with tentative smiles that burst once they meet their new friends and teachers. It is all too precious to describe with words. Most importantly, the beginning of the school year always reminds me how important our ministry is and the extent to which we have the chance to make a difference in these children’s lives. We have the responsibility of keeping them safe and sharing with them lessons, morals, values and stories that will help shape them in to loving and caring adults. Our responsibility is to show them what community means and how they can be a contributing member now and as they grow older.

At our Blessing of the Backpacks, as the children sang “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”, I found myself harping on two words: whole world. The “whole world” is too large of a place for a preschooler to understand. What they see and who they interact with is their perception of the “whole world”. But as age and time shows us, the “whole world” is much bigger. As adults, when we think about how to help people, how to make things better in this “whole world,” we realize the overwhelming nature of that task. We may not be able to always help the “whole world,” but what we can do is look to the preschooler’s perception and make that “whole world” a better place by teaching them the meaning of community, the meaning of helping, and the meaning of compassion. Outside my office, you will see a poster that says, “How to Build Community”. Each year I send this home with each child with the hope that their parents will read this and be moved to act.

This year, it is my goal to build our preschool community and to give our students the opportunity to be a participant in this ongoing construction. Our first step was the Blessing of the Backpacks, where the church and preschool communities came together as one. That Sunday, we “start(ed) a tradition,” as the poster says. Our second step is to have OASIS in our classrooms every other Friday to, “read stories aloud,” as the poster says. And our third step is our new partnership with Our House in Decatur. Our House is a preschool for children who reside in a homeless shelter, temporary shelter, or emergency shelter. This year, their Pre-K and our Pre-K will be “buddy classes”. It is through this partnership that we will continue this effort to build community. As the poster says, we will “share what we have”; we will “garden together”; we will “support our neighborhood schools”; we will “seek to understand.” We will build community. Thank you for being a wonderful example of a loving community, and thank you for letting our preschool be a part of it.

Blessings,

Sarah Baldwin

Older Adults Return to Preschool

READING TO KIDS MAKES YOU SMARTER. Maybe, maybe not, but all the seniors and all the preschoolers who participated in World Read Out Loud Day last spring agree that it's fun. You have an opportunity to serve by signing up to read on any Friday(s) from August 16 to November 22 from 11:30 AM to 12:15 at EPC Preschool. Contact Jan Zabarac in the church office or Al Stacer at alstacer@gmail.com to designate which days you would like to read. Let us know if you have questions.

The Preschool Director, Sarah Baldwin said, "The kids love it." You will too. Give reading to kids a try. Brighten your day and help put the service in OASIS. We hope to hear from you. The more the merrier.



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 August 21 at Always Fresh (Lilburn).



September Birthdays

1	Catherine Dutton	5	Bob McWilliams	13	Keith Bentley	23	Rebecca Hartle
	Courtney McCall		Leigh Ann Ramos		Janey Burrell	24	David Burrell
	James Willis	6	Sam McCoy	17	Cynthia Heckman	25	Paula Parkinson
2	Blair Brown		Jane Smith		Anne Sorenson		Joshua Thomson
3	Ella Smith	7	Mary Gobba	18	Karen Nielson	26	Hope Bentley
	Phillip Spears		Tim Meers	19	Peggy McCurdy	27	Verle Mickish
	Hannah Wilborn	8	Aaron Smith	20	Rachael Abraham	28	Chris Petty
	Olivia Wilborn	11	Jackie Lamb		Kelly Frank	30	Peggy Meek
4	Mary Clarke		Abigail Hamburger	21	Frances Fleck		
5	Sue Chandler		Jonathan Streich	22	Beth Brieske		

Community Connections: English as a Second Language Training

The response to the call for volunteers to provide tutoring in conversational English to the Burmese community has been wonderful. It is not too late to sign up if you have missed seeing the information during the summer vacation period. Alice Day is keeping a contact list, so please let her know of your interest. aliceday1@bellsouth.net (770) 469-7363.

Literacy Volunteers of Metro Atlanta (LVAMA) has offered training for ESL for Eastminster Volunteers:

What: **ESL Training Classes**

When: **Saturday August 24th and 31st
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Where: Office Literacy Volunteers of Metro Atlanta 404-377 -READ (7323)
246 Sycamore Street
Suite 110
Decatur, GA 30030

Cost: \$75; \$40 for material which can be obtained prior to the class for review

If you are able to participate, please contact Alice Day: (770) 469-7363 to confirm you plan to attend. Let Alice know if you have any concerns with the cost of the training, as the church has some resources to provide some scholarships.

There are potentially 15 volunteers for this class, and we plan to make arrangements to car pool from the church if people want to share transportation. Additional information will be communicated in August. In the future, we will arrange additional training opportunities if these dates are not convenient.

Linda Mote, LVAMA President, Board of Directors, indicated that if anyone would like to observe an ESL class they are welcome to do this. The classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. – noon at this office. She also offered to provide the ESL materials prior to the class if anyone wants to begin looking at them. The materials cost \$40 and may be picked up from the Office. Please let Alice or Linda Redman (lindaredman@bellsouth.net 678-380-7178) know if you would like materials before the August training.

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer and finding cool spots for retreats from the heat!



We're back!

Wednesday dinners will resume on September 11. Come and join us at 5:45 for a good home cooked meal.

Congratulations to

Cathy and Malcolm McCoy on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Catherine Francoeur, born July 15. Proud parents are Catie and Jeff Francoeur.

Christian Education News

Public schools started on August 12 but our “school year” at Eastminster will not start until after Labor Day. Christian Education Sunday in the Presbyterian Church is September 8 when we will kick off our new classes and Mardee will preach on “Christian Education - A Faith Journey”. Watch for more details coming soon but the plans include classes for ALL AGES. We will continue with two classes for children, one for youth and three for adults on Sunday mornings.

In addition, on September 11, we will begin the Wednesday night programs with a seven week class entitled “Obstacles to Faith”.

In the meantime, the Bible Sampler Class will continue to meet through August after worship in the Adult Center. Evening Vespers will also continue through Sunday, August 25. August 18 will focus on the parade of “Biblical Heroes” found in Hebrews 11; August 25 will be Psalm 71:1-6 “A Prayer for Life Long Protection”. Great singing, purposeful praying and intentional learning through an interactive Bible lesson (not to mention the creative snacks that end the evening) continue to be engaging and thought provoking. Each session stands alone so it’s not too late to join in!



Update on Martin Mwangi

Martin and Margaret have been participating three times a week in therapy at Shepherd’s clinic for head injuries for over a month now. Without a doubt progress has been made in Martin’s mobility and speech. He has a team of therapists working on the various problems caused by the head injury sustained in a car accident in Jan. 2012. Margaret has also received instruction as his caregiver, and she knows how to train a caregiver to assist them when they return to Kenya.

Last Friday Martin had eye surgery to correct the double vision in his right eye. The surgery seems to be a success. He needs to stay in the U.S. until early September for follow-ups from the surgery. He will be fitted for two pairs of glasses. This is going to aid his ability to read and should help with his balance in walking.

Our time with Martin and Margaret has reaped so many blessing for the EPC members that have helped drive, taken food, and just visited with them. The spirit of the Lord certainly dwells in them, and they consistently praise His goodness. They are looking forward to returning to their daughters, Mary-14 and Abigail-10. Martin is formulating plans for the church of East Africa to help in bringing people in need of medical help in the rural areas into the city for care. They have witnessed how a team of compassionate Christians can truly make a difference with some organization and their gift of time.

Continue to pray for Martin’s healing and for their travel in September back to Kenya. Also, consider dropping by the Florida Dorm Room 306 door code 235 at Columbia Seminary to meet with them. They love company, and it helps pass the time for them. Just call Margaret’s cell to set up a time 404 538 8128.



Join a PW Circle for Study and Fellowship

Beginning in September Eastminster Presbyterian Women are inviting all ladies to come and join a circle and/or our annual Fall luncheon, Christmas ornament workshops, Winter retreat, "Come See Columbia Day" and Spring luncheon. We currently have three Circles that gather monthly: Circle of Blessings meets the first Tues. morning (9:30 A.M.) at various homes. Bible Moderator is Susan Adle and Coordinator is Marjory Crawford. Circle of Love and Friendship meets the second Tues. morning of each month (10:00 A.M.) at the church. Ann Clements and Sally Jackson are Bible Moderators and Barbara Morgan is the Coordinator. Evening Stars Circle meet at the church Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Dates are to be announced. Jeanne Simpson is the Bible Moderator and Janet Uthlaut is the Coordinator. Even if you have never attended a Circle or PW activity in the past you will always feel a warm welcome and enjoy spiritual growth through Bible study and discussion. Our Fall Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 29 following 11:00 A.M. worship in Founders Hall. Please bring a salad (congealed, chicken, taco, marinated, layered, tossed, etc.) to share. Please consider jotting down your recipe on a 3x5 index card and placing it next to your dish. Your presence will be welcomed and appreciated even if you forget or are unable to contribute to our meal. We always have enough to share. "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves." "Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people." "He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied." Mark 6: 41-42.



PW Bible Study for 2013-2014

AN ABIDING HOPE: THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN EXODUS AND DEUTERONOMY will be the Bible study for Presbyterian Women this year. Janice Cantron, who wrote our 1997 study of Job, returns with a challenging look at parallels between the redemption of believers into the fullness God intends for humanity. In the closing lesson we are assured "these marvelous books promise that, while we may give up on God from time to time, God never gives up on us. We are never abandoned, never unloved, never forgotten."

Interspersed in the study are insightful glimpses at migration stories of refugees around the world. As Eastminster PWs, we will be called to an awareness of the Burmese refugees living in Clarkston that have a growing connection to our church.

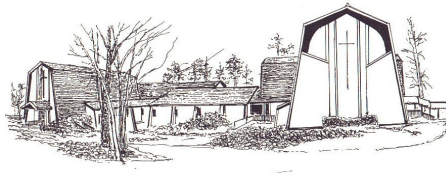
We will cover many familiar stories from new perspectives. Join us as we explore the poignant questions posed by Dr. Cantron as we sit together in circles of love and friendship and blessings of Christian fellowship.

You may purchase Bible Study books now from Janet Uthlaut or your Circle Coordinators. Cost is \$8.00.

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

5801 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.eastminster.us
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, August 30
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at noon

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Director of Family Ministries ~ Mark Sauls
Director of Christian Education ~ Mardee Rightmyer
Director of Music Ministries ~ Andrew Meade
Director of School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool ~ Sarah Baldwin
Communications Coordinator ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac