

# 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

**October 9, 2013**

## “As I have I give”

If you take the time to read the first 10 verses of the third chapter of Acts, you will read of an encounter Peter and John had going to the temple for prayer. Peter had just preached a huge sermon about salvation through Christ and about 3,000 people repented. Then this, his first encounter after the sermon, is with a crippled beggar. The beggar asked for something from Peter and he responds by saying: “I have no silver or gold but what I do have I give you...”. Peter then healed the beggar!

This beggar got what he needed, not what he wanted. This man would have been happy with a coin or some bread. He was willing to settle for something less than healing and there lies the human fault. We have the tendency to treat the symptoms rather than seek the cure. We will try and improve and rebuild rather than find wholeness in God’s perfect order. The world will settle for a temporary ‘high’ rather than redemption which will bring righteousness and justice and freedom: The cure!

I believe that we find ourselves in exciting and hopeful times at Eastminster. We have a staff that is working so well together to support the ministries and missions which God is offering us. And session, diaconate, and leadership engaged in the work of the church along with a congregation poised to do what God is calling to be done. As we enter this exciting time I think we need to remember two things: we must first have before we can give and we must give in order to have.

**We must have to give!** One cannot give what they do not have but in the church today we don’t always recognize that. First and foremost we must have salvation before we can share it. If we do not have it we cannot offer it. People are drawn to church for many different reasons but unless we are drawn by the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ receiving it through faith, we can’t share the gospel. Without Christ we have nothing but alms and lack the power to offer life to a dying world.

**We must give to have!** Jesus was very clear when he taught we cannot keep what we will not give away. This is the opposite of what the world tells us as it demands we acquire, store up, and accumulate. But Jesus said: “He that finds his life shall lose it; and he that loses his life for Christ’s sake shall find it (Matt. 10:39). This sometimes seems backwards but in the Kingdom of God, that is the standard and it is not all about possessions. If we will not offer forgiveness we won’t receive it; if we do not love others we will block love; and given much surely much will be required.

So, if we have **It**, let us then share it. Let us share the gospel to a world which has a congenital illness...sin in the heart. Let us share the righteousness and justice of the Kingdom. And let us share our wealth, time and talents as we know we cannot keep what we will not give away.

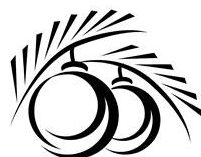
Blessings,

Caleb

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## Found:

Playskool cup w/Dora necklace  
wrapped around it.



## Christmas Ornament Workshop

Mark your calendars for Monday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the Adult Center to assemble our 2013 Christmas ornaments. All supplies will be available. Just bring a smiling face and cheerful spirit.

## Happy Anniversary, Presbyterian Women!

Presbyterian Women was created, bringing together the women's organizations from the two denominations that merged to become the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). So for 25 years now, our beloved organization has been witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom and transforming lives around the world. And of course, this young group is carrying on the more-than-200-year tradition of Presbyterian women meeting, praying, and acting together in shared love of God!



## November Birthdays

1 Rick Adle	14 Ted Kapsch	21 Hil Craig	27 Carol Burrell
2 Lydia Rivera	Bo Ramos	Mitch Dunn	28 Cathy Alexander
3 Charles Smith	15 Michael Gowland	22 Ruth Adams	Dominic Szathmari
4 Dick Warren	16 Francie McCormick	Andrew Smith	29 Chuck Gobba
6 Courtney Craig	17 Ray Hartsfield	23 Amy Carmichael	30 Kirk Alexander
Chris Gerard	18 James Brandon	George Mitchell	Parker Bennett
7 Barbara Garrett	19 Kelly Gunter	Wyatt Moore	Bunny Smith
Kathe Gowland	Rueleen Kapsch	25 Cooper Frank	31 Bill Hicks
9 Lila Smith	Betty Willis	George Nielson	
11 Charlotte Scott	21 Peter Boven	26 Pat Carmichael	
13 Sarah Lawley	Ashley Burger	Donna Kellogg	

## Fall Work Day

Please make plans to attend the Fall work day on Saturday, October 19 from 8:00 - noon. We will have projects for inside and out. Our big outdoor project is to remove the juniper bushes from the bank in front of the Sanctuary building. If you have access to a back hoe tractor, please contact Pat Carmichael 770-827-4369 or Ed Jones 404-840-4210. As always, any donations of pine straw are greatly appreciated. Most of all we look forward to seeing you there for fun and fellowship!

## Dear Eastminster friends and family,

Lei and I would like to thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls and e-mails after my recent procedure for my back. We are still hoping for positive results, and we appreciate all the warm wishes during this time. We miss being at church on a regular basis, and hope to be able to return soon. Thanks again.

Bill and Lei Norman



## Fall Chili Luncheon

The deacons invite you to mark your calendars now and plan to attend the annual Fall Chili Luncheon to be held in the gym on October 13 immediately following the 11:00 service. We promise you good food and good fellowship!



## Outreach Blood Drive - Sunday, October 13

The month of October is Mission Emphasis and Outreach. Make plans to join us Sunday, October 13 for our Fall Blood Drive and renew your personal commitment and outreach through your "Gift of Life".

Jesus, in the book of Matthew, said to his disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few". Let's not hold back when our "harvest" is both free to give and so greatly needed. Help us reach our goal of 20+ units of donated blood.

The LifeSouth Van will be here Sunday, October, 13, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex but all last minute donors are welcome. The only requirements are that you be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and have a picture ID.

Come and be a part of this very special ministry of EPC, knowing that your generosity will save many, many lives.

The Outreach Committee

## Clerk's Corner

### Excerpts From Minutes of September 15 Stated Session Meeting

Deacons – Annual Chili Lunch following 11:00 service October 13. Deacons have revised their portion of the Session manual. Session will vote to approve changes at the October session meeting.

Worship – 9:00 AM service started back on September 15. Committee is looking at not having communion at every service. Part of the reasoning behind this is the time constraint in the 45 minute service.

Weekday Ministries – Registration for pre-school and after school is going well. 51 children are enrolled in preschool and 57 in after school program. OASIS has begun the Friday reading program to the preschoolers. Volunteers are welcome.

Building and Grounds – Work day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 8:00 – 12:00.

Outreach – EPC is involved in 17 different outreach type ministries. Committee is evaluating the ministries served and looking for leaders to serve as team leaders for various ministries.

Christian Education – Committee made a proposal to Session to consider having all committee meetings scheduled for one Wednesday evening every month during the normal program hour. No program would be offered that night. CE asked that this proposal be communicated to the various committees for their input and a possible date for starting would be the first of the year.

Ways and Means – Year to date remains in the black; however August financials were a deficit of \$11,877. Reminder that if you wish to see financial report, copies of the current Financial Summary are on the volunteer's desk in the church office.

Capital Campaign – Letter was sent out to the congregation regarding the capital campaign and will include the "Wish List" of needs/repairs that are/or will be needed at EPC.

Nominating committee continues it work to complete the slate of officer nominations for the coming year.



## News from the Preschool

Our Preschool is now a part of the Scholastic Reading Club! This wonderful program sends monthly flyers with books for sale for preschool aged children through fifth grade. With each purchase you make from these monthly flyers, our Preschool earns FREE books and Bonus Points that allow us to buy different resources. Flyers are available on the bulletin board outside of the church office. You can order by returning this flyer and a check to Sarah Baldwin's mailbox in the Church office, or by placing your order online and entering the code printed on the first page of the flyer. Books make GREAT gifts! If you have any questions, feel free to email Sarah Baldwin at [preschool5801@gmail.com](mailto:preschool5801@gmail.com). Happy Reading!

The Preschool will be collecting Halloween costumes for Our House through October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to collect a minimum of 22 costumes to outfit their entire Pre-K classroom! Donations can be placed in the basket outside of the Preschool office at any time. We appreciate your help and generosity in reaching this goal!



## Thanksgiving: Time To Be Grateful and Give Thanks To Others

Think about the bounty you enjoy when you feast on turkey and fresh fruits and vegetables at your annual Thanksgiving table. We have an opportunity to share our blessings with others at the Lilburn and Stone Mtn. Co-ops this year to provide the same pleasure and delight. Please consider donating some fresh produce (apples, oranges, grapes, squash, green beans, potatoes, yams, etc.). All items should be brought to the church the week of Nov. 3-10. If collections need to be kept fresh, please place them in the downstairs preschool refrigerator or in the refrigerator located in the church kitchen. Please mark bags for Co-ops. Cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, boxes of stuffing, and gravy mixes are also requested. You may also decide to obtain Kroger gift cards (\$10) to purchase turkeys. Please include the gift cards in an envelope (designated "Turkeys") and place them in the offering plate or drop them off at the church office. "Let him give generously." Romans 12:8.



## Wear It First Halloween Costume Carnival

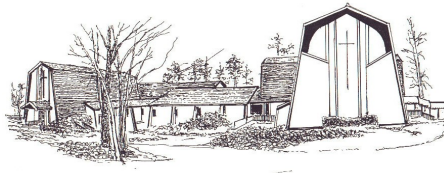
All children are invited to attend our WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME FIRST CARNIVAL on Saturday, October 26 from 2-4 in the gymnasium. Fun games, face painting, mini-pumpkin decorating, pumpkin bowling, mini-golf and more with prizes. Vote for your favorite decorated pumpkin from the preschool classes. Donations from the pumpkin contest will go to UNICEF as part of "Kids Helping Kids."

Bring your kids, grandchildren, and neighbors! Everyone, including adults, is encouraged to dress-up. Admission is a can of food and a bag of candy to donate to the food coops. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the church office, 770-469-4881 or Janice Wilmot 770-381-6373, or email [gwilmot@comcast.net](mailto:gwilmot@comcast.net)

THE WITNESS IS  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

5801 Hugh Howell Road  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
www.eastminster.us  
eastminsterpres@yahoo.com  
Contact: Paula McGill



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 45  
Stone Mtn. GA  
30086

**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, October 31  
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at noon

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**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