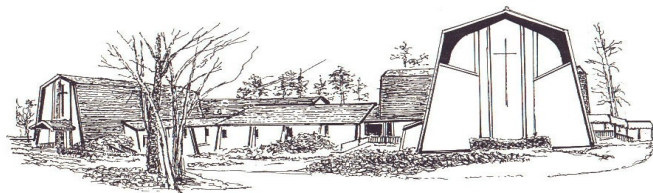


# THE WITNESS

November 13, 2013



The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all.

EPC Mission Statement ~ Adopted by Session 2011



## 2014 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN NEWS

2014 Stewardship Committee: Everyone

Leadership Team: Beverly Hutchinson, Chair. Caleb Clarke III,  
Sally Jackson, Bob Swift, Julian Wade and Jan Zabarac

You may have been wondering about our Annual Stewardship Campaign to fund the 2014 budget and why you have not yet been asked for a pledge.

As the Stewardship Leadership Team approached the campaign, one issue was prominent— to make sure everyone knows about the goals for 2014.

The theme this year is ***Every Person Counts—Prayer, Pledge, Participation.*** This coming year, we are asking every person at EPC to focus on the following:

**Prayer** which will free our minds of everyday worries and allow us to concentrate on what God would have us do with the blessings He has given us. Keep in mind guidance from Philippians 4:6: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

**Our goal is for 100% of the EPC family to join in prayer throughout the time leading up to our Commitment Sunday on December 15 this year, and then to make prayer a continuing commitment.**

**Participation** as an informed and faithful steward of our EPC community is the second part of the campaign. Many at EPC are active in a variety of ways—serving in ministries within the church itself (singing in the choir, preparing for Sunday worship, teaching classes—the list is a long one) or serving in the community (mission trips, teaching English, helping at a food pantry, etc.).

**For 2014, our goal is a 10% increase in the number of EPC members who give of their**

**time and talent as part of one of EPC's ministries.**

**Pledge** is the third element of our theme for 2014. We are the stewards of God's home at EPC. We must maintain it with the gifts which God has bestowed on us. Seek the Lord's guidance about what He would you have give to advance the work of God's Kingdom. As we begin to give generously, the result is we become more joyful, and more giving, and more concerned with what is on the heart of God. Make it a joyful gift...God will lead you if you ask for guidance.

**For 2014, the goal is for all members to increase their proportionate giving by 1% of their income.**

Please plan to attend a special meeting on November 24 to learn more and ask questions about our budget for 2014. Details are below.



**Do you Have  
Questions &  
Concerns about the  
2014 Budget?**

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

**WELCOME AT THE  
TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 24**

**Following the 11:00 a.m. service  
Lunch will be served—child care available**

## 15 Years of Faithful Service

Please take a moment to stop and admire the lovely Japanese maple recently planted in our own "Prayer Garden". This tree honors Audrey Maly for her time, efforts and dedication during the past 15 years serving as a very capable trustworthy treasurer for Eastminster's Presbyterian Women. Don't forget to congratulate Audrey and mention how much we appreciate her willingness to share her gifts and talents. "She is a tree of life to those who embrace her." Proverbs 3:18.

## Alternative Holiday Gift Giving Ideas

Decorative Christmas cards from the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Co-ops will be available at a table in the narthex each Sunday morning beginning November 17 through December 8. This is a meaningful gift idea that touches the hearts of givers and receivers. Please sign your name on the list, note how many cards from each Co-op taken, and write the amount of donations. Deposit the cash or check (write check to EPC, designate Lilburn or Stone Mtn. Co-op in left memo area) in envelope provided. Family, friends, colleagues, etc. will be thrilled to know they will be included in a circle of caring individuals reaching out to others in our community.



## Tax Break – Did you know?

IRA owners (and IRA beneficiaries) who have attained age 70½ may make a direct transfer of a tax-free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations (such as Eastminster Presbyterian Church) for the tax year 2013. The QCD may count as IRA required minimum distributions. Charitably inclined seniors can reduce their taxes by arranging for IRA donations to take the place of taxable required minimum distributions (RMD). For example, if in 2013 you are over age 70½ and you'd like to make a contribution to local charitable organization, you may have all or part of your 2013 RMD made payable directly to the charity, and then designate it as a qualified charitable distribution on your tax return. The amount of the qualified distribution will not be treated as taxable income by the IRS. For IRS information see <http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Charitable-Donations-from-IRAs-for-2012-and-2013>



## December Birthdays

4	Meredith Mitchell	13	Samille Malloy	23	Sally Gryder	29	Lynne Scott
10	Robert McManus	16	Ben Gerard		Pete Heckman		Kiera Swinkola
	Steve Stewart		Courtney Moore	25	Courtney Petty	30	Sarah Sauls
	Paul Timko	17	Jennifer Streich		Kristen Terpstra		Siena Watchulonis
11	Dot Zegel	18	Matthew Adams	27	Lee McCoy	31	Kenton McWilliams
12	Steve Burger		Zachary Burrell		Zach Smethers		

## Operation Christmas Child



"The Power of a Simple Gift" is amazing! A shoebox filled with school supplies, toiletries, and toys is easy to fill and is finished early, even before Thanksgiving, even though it is a Christmas gift to warm the heart of a child in a third world country. Individuals fill their boxes and bring them to the collection box near the gym by Sunday, November 17. The \$7 donation will include a special booklet (in the child's own language) sharing the love of Christ. Pick up your information brochure in the Narthex or near the collection box. This will include labels for age and boy or girl items. Christmas wrap (lid separately) is optional. Shoeboxes provided if needed. Contact Mary Bentley 770-921-7220 for further questions. This ministry is through Samaritan's Purse, President Franklin Graham.



## Thanks!

- ♦ Thank you, thank you - so sorry we were out of town for the actual planting. Stopped by the Prayer Garden after church Sunday - the Japanese maple tree planted for me is so beautiful. What an attractive addition to the garden and what a thoughtful, lovely way to be remembered.

God bless, Audrey Maly

- ♦ Where do I begin? The children and I were overwhelmed with the care and attention we received at Bill's service. From Mark's handling of the slide presentation, to Bev hovering over me to be sure I was okay and didn't need anything, to the beautiful service and music by the choir, to the abundance of food provided by Carol's committee; we do not have adequate words to express our appreciation. I know there were many others such as ushers, servers, etc. whose names I do not know, but to whom we are grateful. Through Bill's illness and many hospital visits to the present, we continue to receive prayers, calls, cards and offers of help. We sincerely thank you for everything. We have felt the love!

May God bless each of you, Ann Lee, Clif, Laura and David Bussey

- ♦ Many, many thanks from Building & Grounds to the 34 folks who came out on a rainy Saturday to "spruce up" Eastminster both inside and out. A tremendous amount of work was done, including clearing the front bank of junipers (which had been pulled up earlier in the week by Ken McMillan using an excavator), laying pine straw and planting rose bushes donated by the Mountain Shadow Garden Club. The results of a lot of hard work all around the church are evident as soon as you drive onto the property. We can accomplish amazing things working together!

In the week following the Oct. 19th workday, Scott Uthlaut and several members of the garden club continued to work on the prayer garden until it was completed. Be sure to visit it and take a look - it is once again a beautiful place for reflection and prayer.

- ♦ Thank you for your cards and phone calls after the death of Joel's dad. We appreciate your support and love.

In His grasp and love, Joel and Marcia Price



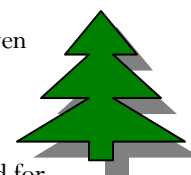
## Breakfast With Santa

The Stone Mountain Co-op is sponsoring "Breakfast With Santa" again this year. Mark your calendars for Sat., Dec. 7 from 8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Join the festivities at the First United Methodist Church of Stone Mountain in the village adjacent to the Co-op. You may purchase tickets at the door (\$6.00 per person, children under 3 years free). This will include breakfast, a picture with Santa, gift shop for children to select presents, and a Silent Auction for adult/older children gift purchases. All proceeds benefit clients of the Stone Mtn. Co-op. Holiday gift cards are purchased with the money collected and given to needy families in our local community.



## Caring Tree - 26 Years and Counting

The "Caring Tree" has remained an Eastminster tradition since 1987. For the past 26 years we have cheerfully given gifts to individuals and families in our community encouraging the holiday spirit among others as well within our congregation. Volunteers are always needed before and during "Caring Tree" Sunday, Dec. 15. Cards are now available on the tree in the narthex. There is a poster available to write your name/phone number next to the number and family/nursing home resident you have chosen. Suggestions printed on "Caring Tree" cards are listed for your convenience. If you wish to purchase other items or give gift cards in lieu of hard-to-find items or unknown/difficult circumstances, don't hesitate to consider doing so. Please list on "Caring Tree" card you have taken from our tree that you have included gift cards. If you are unable or do not wish to purchase gifts, please consider sending a donation. You may designate "Caring Tree" and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. There will be volunteers available to answer any questions you may have concerning the "Caring Tree" before and following worship on Sunday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 8. There will be cards available in Founders Hall before and following the 9:00 A.M. worship service. We always appreciate extra hands to sort, wrap, and deliver gifts "Caring Tree" Sunday. Lunch will be provided. This year we are also inviting the Burmese community to join us at 3:00 P.M. for punch and cookies and a special holiday celebration. Come join us for fun and fellowship!



Outreach Committee

DO YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN HELPING WITH THE "CARING TREE" THIS YEAR? THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO INVOLVE THE ENTIRE FAMILY IN SHARING GOD'S LOVE DURING A SEASON THAT CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE FAMILIES. PLEASE CHECK THE AREAS WHERE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WISH TO VOLUNTEER.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Shopping for gifts (when someone has given cash instead of presents) during late Nov. or early Dec.

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing extra gifts, clothing, books, candles, toys, stationery, etc. to augment gifts that arrive.

\_\_\_\_\_ Helping put together the routes for delivery using mapquest or similar program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Helping on "Caring Tree" Sunday, Dec. 15 wrapping gifts, checking off families, or getting gifts organized.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with preparation of volunteer lunch on "Caring Tree" Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ Delivering gifts on "Caring Tree" Sunday, Dec. 15.



## Save a life by registering as a Stem Cell - Bone Marrow Donor

Sponsored by Genny's Hope Foundation and Delete Blood Cancer (DKMS)

Coordinated with Bank of America Red Cross Blood Drive

Hosted by Bonnie Evans 404.771.0010

WHEN: Tuesday, December 3 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

WHERE: Northeast Center, 2059 Northlake Parkway, 5th Floor, Tucker, GA 30084

(Across the street from O'Charley's Restaurant)

COST: Free

Who can donate? In principle, any generally healthy person between the ages of 18 and 55, who weighs at least 110 pounds and does not exceed a maximum body mass index (BMI) of 40, can register as a donor.

## Appalachia Service Project

The **Outreach Committee** has been diligently looking for new opportunities to add to Eastminster's vibrant outreach ministry. We are active locally and we want to be active in other parts of the nation, too. We are proud to introduce a new partnership that will take our outreach to a place it has never been before, the mountainous region of Appalachia.

During the week of **July 6 through July 12, 2014**, Eastminster will send a team of volunteers to a small town in eastern Tennessee near Johnson City to join along side other churches from various denominations in building and repairing homes through the **Appalachia Service Project (ASP)**. Appalachia Service Project, a PC(USA) partner, was started in 1969 and has coordinated more than 300,000 volunteers who have come to Appalachia to make a difference in the lives of poor people living there. ASP makes a difference in both the lives of those who are receiving help and those who are giving help and we want to become a part of this vital ministry.

**What should we expect when we go?** ASP is more than a building program - it's a relational ministry. You will spend a lot of your time interacting with the Appalachian family you are helping, getting to know their needs, their culture, and their hearts. You'll be inspired by their genuine gratitude and by their down to earth faith. Best of all, you'll experience first hand that regardless of geography, education, or economic class, we can all love and support each other as part of the family of God.

ASP offers year-round projects and also summer-only projects oriented toward youth. We will be working on projects designed for both youth and adults and we want the support of both. Members of our team will be divided into smaller teams of about seven with each team working on a different construction project. We will stay in the same location, share meals together, and be lead by ASP staff in morning and evening devotions.

**We need you to join us in Appalachia!** The minimum age to participate is 14. Registration forms are available in the office. The cost to participate is **\$400** with a \$100 deposit due at registration. Please complete the registration form and return it to the office by **December 1st**. For more information please contact Rick Adle, our Appalachian team leader, at (770) 498-0532. Check out ASP online at [ASPhome.org](http://ASPhome.org).

The Outreach Committee



## PW Thank and Anniversary Offerings

During our Fall luncheon on September 29 \$820 was collected for our Thank Offering. All women were encouraged to bring quarters (25 cents for 25 years) to celebrate our Anniversary Offering. Coins amounting to \$34 were given for this campaign. Donate \$25 (or more) for 25 to the PW Mission Pledge to support and celebrate Presbyterian Women's past, present and future. Go to [www.presbyterianmission.org/give/301](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/301) or send your gift to:

Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing

PO Box 643652

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

or visit <http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/> to donate to "\$25 of 25 campaign". Please write PWMP25 in the memo line of your check.

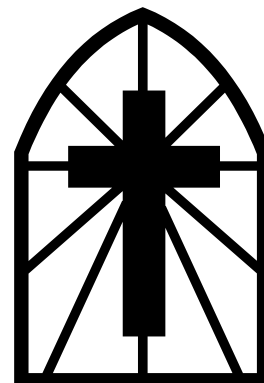
To purchase PW's 25th anniversary pin, go to Church Store ([www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store)) or call PDS at 800/524-2612. Ask for item PWR13405 (\$4.00). Save by ordering in sets of five (item PWR13407; \$15.00)!

## December Worship at Eastminster...

### a great blend of traditions and new experiences.

#### Sunday Worship

Come and experience the joy of the Christmas season as we worship together in ONE combined service during the month of December. The combined service will be at 11 a.m. on Sundays beginning 12/1.



#### Hanging of the Greens

Come help us decorate the Sanctuary! We will "Hang the Greens" on Saturday 12/7, "Trim the Big Tree" on Saturday, 12/14, and "Beautify with Poinsettias" on Saturday, 12/21. Want to meet new people? This is a great service opportunity to help decorate for Christmas and you can also meet new friends. All are welcome and we especially need some men to help! Times are TBD. Contact Rene Boven at [rboven@comcast.net](mailto:rboven@comcast.net) for more information.

#### Lessons and Carols

Our long time tradition of Lessons and Carols is back this year and will be on Sunday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Come join us for the Christmas story, great music and more.

#### Christmas Eve Service

New this year will be ONE new, family friendly service at 5:30 p.m. This service will have a children's component and also be a candlelight service with communion and special music. Come worship with us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior together! This is going to be great!

**Please help us get the word out in our community about these services and please invite your family and friends!**



## Volunteers Needed:

### Stone Mountain Co-op

We have a wonderful opportunity again this year to volunteer at the Stone Mountain Co-op from Dec. 9-23 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays sorting, shelving, and bagging food for those in our local community. Hours are 9:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Please consider donating a gift of "time and effort" during this holiday season. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please contact Linda Chapman: Home: (770) 921-9538, Cell: (404) 578-0610, or [lin\\_rod\\_stmntn@bellsouth.net](mailto:lin_rod_stmntn@bellsouth.net) if you are interested.

## Sympathy to

Ann Lee Bussey on the death of her husband, Bill, on October 25.



## Upcoming Oasis Lunch and Learn



### Thursday, November 21 “Thankfulness”

Potluck Lunch (11:30 a.m.) Please bring a dish to share and a quote, poem or your own thoughts on gratitude and thanksgiving. We will also enjoy a talk on “Being Grateful” by Rev. Dana Hughes, a minister, wife, mother of three children, in-town chicken raiser and foster care provider for kittens. That makes her one for whom many others are grateful – including all of us who hear her speak.

### Thursday, December 19 “Christmas Joy”

The Preschool Musical Christmas Program (10:30 a.m.) will begin our time in the sanctuary. After their gifts of song, we will go to the Adult Center where we will be feted with a Christmas luncheon provided by the church staff and Andrew will lead us in songs of the season.



## Wednesday Night Programs

Nov. 20 Christian Themes in the movies: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Nov. 27 No Program Happy Thanksgiving

Dec. 4 **Service of Healing and Wholeness** The holidays can be an especially difficult time for those dealing with illness, suffering or loss. This quiet, reflective service is for all who want to acknowledge those hurts and want to have time to seek peace and hope. 6:45 in Founders Hall.

Dec. 11 TBA

Dec. 18 The children of the church and weekday programs will present a **Traditional Christmas Pageant** in the Sanctuary at 6:45.

Dec. 25 No Program Merry Christmas Everyone!

## Christian Education Events in December



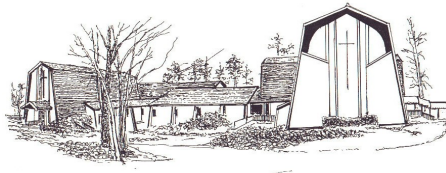
**There will be a CD Advent Devotional** for every household available the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1. If you are not at church that Sunday, let Mardee know and she will get one to you.

**Adults will have an Advent Sunday School Class** December 1, 8, 15, 22 in Founders Hall at 9:45 a.m. Taught by Rev. Dana Hughes with a focus on Advent, we are invited to engage in this study of the Gospel of James. (Not the same as the letter of James –this one is not in the canon of the Bible.) This Gospel provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives of Mary and Joseph and prompts an excavation through the layers of fact, fable and faith. (See Dana’s bio in Oasis’ Nov. Lunch and Learn section above.)

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, November 28  
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 Zabarak