

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

December 11, 2013

Your New Officers for 2014

The congregation met this past Sunday, and after hearing a report of your Officer Nominating Committee, voted unanimously to elect the slate of new officers for the coming year. These individuals were willing to have their names put in nomination and agreed to serve for the next three years. Eastminster Presbyterian Church extends great thanks to each of them for their willingness to serve at this time. There will be a time set apart for their ordination and installation in the next month, but I wanted to take this time to introduce the new classes to you.

DEACONS, CLASS OF 2016

Patricia (Pat) Baumann
Zandie Burger
Kelly Gunter
Marty Hillman
John Hinkle

DEACONS, CLASS OF 2014

Carol Cloninger
Danice Eaton
Bonnie Evans
Pam Stewart

The EPC Session manual sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Diaconate and states in part: Called and ordained to serve and to provide Christian care for members of the congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Deacons enter into a special covenant with God. Through prayer, regular communication, and personal contact, Deacons follow the examples of Jesus Christ for sympathy, witness, and service. The Diaconate is guided by the definition of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture and as referenced in the Book of Order.

ELDERS, CLASS OF 2016

Mary Bentley
Katherine Harrison
Lynn Maxwell
Erica Meers
Aaron Smith

The Book of Church Order states that the session shall be responsible for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, love, hope and witness.

Congratulations to us all for such a great slate of officers. May God bless each of you and strengthen you for the journey ahead. May God be a blessing to the entire congregation this Christmas Season!

Caleb

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.

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!



You're Invited...

The congregation is invited to a baby shower for Mark and Sarah Sauls on Sunday, January 12, 2014, directly after the 11:00 church service. We will have a light lunch and drinks in the gym, followed by a baby shower in Founders Hall. Come show how much we love them, and how much they mean to our church! They are registered at Target and Baby's R Us. Call Paula in the church office to RSVP for this wonderful event.

Greeters Needed

Are you looking for an opportunity to participate more at Eastminster? A new greeter rotation will be formed for 2014 to welcome people attending the 11:00 service. If you are interested please contact Janice Wilmot, either 770-381-6373 or gwilmot@comcast.net or call the church office, 770-469-4881. Thank you for saying "Yes, Lord, Yes!"



January Birthdays

1	Ray Hartsfield	11	Audrey Maly	18	Janice Wilmot	24	Daren Sorenson
	Karen Hartsfield	12	William Hartle	19	Libby Fleck	26	Jeffrey Craig
	Ginny Matthews	14	Nancy Phillips		Beverly Roberts	27	Beth Heckman
2	Marty Counts	15	Paul Brieske		James Willis		Morgan Peterson
3	Barbara Morgan		Andy Gobba	20	James Ripley		Shannon Honeycutt-
4	Bonnie Evans	16	Richard Eaton	21	Patti Staten		Smith
	Isabella Timko	17	Kelly Brandon	22	Susan McManus	28	Dave Malloy
5	Rick Eaton		Al Lundin	23	Mary Gasser	30	Gayle Owen
	Henry Howard		Michael Swift		Ed Lavergne	31	Matthew Alexander
7	Kelley Dillard	18	Judson Stacer	24	Annie Ruth Counts		

Adult Classes – in January:

Bible Sampler Room 323 Marty Hillman

The Mighty Acts of God, an excellent in-depth study of the Bible, passage by passage.

Seasons of Faith Room 324A Matt Adams, Jenny Rankin, Peggy McCurdy

For the month of January, this class will study the book *Radical Integrity: The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by David Van Dyke. This is the story of a German pastor and theologian who gave his life to oppose Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime. Born into a prominent German family, Dietrich Bonhoeffer died in a Nazi prison camp, hanged for his plot against the man who'd plunged the world into war. *Radical Integrity: The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* explains what made Dietrich Bonhoeffer the man he was-compassionate minister, brilliant thinker, opponent of the heresies of Nazism and Aryan superiority. This easy-to-read biography details both Bonhoeffer's life and his powerful theology of "cheap" versus "costly" grace.

The Third Class Room 324C Mardee Rightmyer

This class will use *Understanding Difficult Scriptures in a Healing Way* by Matthew, Sheila and Dennis Linn to look at scripture passages that are "difficult," meaning ones that are often misunderstood in ways that present an unloving, frightening or narrow image of God. This study will give examples of life-giving ways of interpreting these difficult passages and present simple criteria that anyone can use in reading any passage of the Bible, so that we come away feeling closer to God, ourselves, others and the universe (yes, we will also look at how faith and science do not have to be mutually exclusive.)

If you would like the church to get you a copy of any of the three books being used, please contact Mardee at mrighmyer@gmail.com or 770-469-4881 ext. 228.



Sympathy to...

the family of Virginia McCrory, who died on December 9.



Heartwarming Programs for a Cold Winter Month

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|--------------|---|
| Wed, Jan. 8 | TED TALKS: Learning Something New in the New Year |
| Wed, Jan. 15 | Session Committees Meet / Game Night for Others |
| Wed, Jan. 22 | Making the Most of a New Start: Reconciliation and Redemption Stories |
| Wed, Jan. 29 | One Month Gone: It's Never Too Late To Start Over |

At the congregation meeting on Sunday, December 8th, the following members were elected to office:

ELDERS, CLASS OF 2016

Mary Bentley and her husband Larry first joined Eastminster many years ago and rejoined in 2010. Mary is a Sunday School teacher for the elementary children, is involved in Salt Shakers, Presbyterian Women's Circle, participated in the Talent Show and her voice graces the church choir. One of her little known talents is that she builds and furnishes beautiful doll houses.

Katherine Harrison, her husband Norman, and their 2 sons joined Eastminster in 1984. A recently retired public school teacher, Katherine for many years taught Sunday School to our elementary age children. She has also been a part of our Stephen Ministry program.

Lynn Maxwell joined Eastminster in 2002 and has previously been a Deacon, an Elder and former Clerk of Session. She served on the Pastor Nominating Committee that brought Caleb to EPC and is presently a part of the Worship Committee.

Erica Meers and her husband Tim joined Eastminster in 1995. A mother of 2 college age boys, she has taught Sunday School for many years in both the youth and adult classes. She has previously served Eastminster as a Deacon and is now a part of the Worship Committee.

Aaron Smith and his wife Charlene, members of Eastminster since 2001, have three children - Charles, Benjamin and Abigail (the latter two have served as Youth Elders). Aaron has previously served as an Elder (moderator of Ways and Means), Trustee (moderator) and substitute Sunday School teacher as needed. He was also on the last Pastor Nominating Committee.

DEACONS, CLASS OF 2016

Patricia (Pat) Baumann and her husband Mike Swomley joined Eastminster in 2000. A long time member, Pat is active in Presbyterian Women. She is also a Physician at Emory University and on the faculty of the School of Medicine. She teaches in her specialty of Pain Management.

Zandie Burger and her husband Steve joined Eastminster in 1989, previously from Clairmont Presbyterian Church in Decatur. A mother of four children, she has three grandchildren and a fourth grandchild on the way – due in May. All four of her children first went to preschool at Eastminster. She is an energetic grandmother (who is still working), has cared for toddlers in the Nursery, enjoyed Salt Shakers and was known to choreograph dance (as a Dance Fine Arts Major).

Kelly Gunter joined Eastminster in 1996 and has previously served as both an Elder and a Deacon. She has been a part of numerous committees, a Youth Advisor for many years and now maintains our online prayer requests.

Marty Hillman and her family joined Eastminster in 1981. She has taught an Adult Sunday School class for many years and has also served as an Elder. She has recently retired, and, with a little more available time, we are beginning to see again the beauty of her flower arrangements that for so many years were her gift to our worship services.

John Hinkle, his wife Barbara, and their two daughters joined Eastminster in 1984. He has served as a Trustee and, being in the roofing business, has volunteered many hours as our resident roof person! He is regularly seen in the Narthex as a Greeter and Usher.

New Officers (continued)

DEACONS, CLASS OF 2014

Carol Cloninger and her husband Skip joined Eastminster in 2007. In addition to being a wife, mother and grandmother, she is also the daughter of Eastminster's Tom Grissom. She serves as a Stephen Minister and has been a Deacon for the last three years.

Danice Eaton and her husband Rick joined Eastminster in 1996, previously from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome, GA. A mother of three, she has served as Deacon, trained and scheduled Acolytes and accompanied her family on the Mexico mission trip. She is currently serving on the Music Committee and is involved in the outreach of teaching English to the Burmese. On Sundays, she and her family may be found by looking up in the balcony.

Bonnie Evans, along with her husband Joe, joined Eastminster in 2003. Retirement has brought about much world traveling, but there is still time to be a part of Salt Shakers and volunteering at Stone Mountain Food Pantry. Bonnie has previously served as a Deacon.

Pam Stewart joined Eastminster in 2012 and is married to longtime member Steve. Following her retirement as a full time educator, she now spends her time managing her consignment booth and part time teaching. She and Steve are active participants in our Salt Shaker groups.



Poinsettia Order Form

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the form below and place in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office by *Tuesday, December 17*. Cost: \$10 each - make check payable to Eastminster and mark in the corner "Poinsettia".

Name of person (please print): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please distribute this flower to someone else to enjoy _____

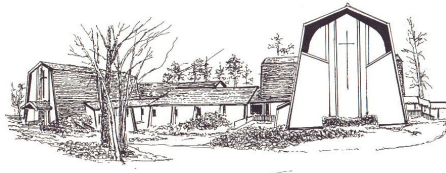
Given by: _____

For Office Use Only: Check No. _____ Amount: _____

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. Tuesday, December 31
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