

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

February 12, 2014

The Mizo Refugee Community and Eastminster

Just down the road from us is a bustling community of refugees from all over the world. Most of us do not come in contact with this community on a regular basis but there are a handful of Christ-minded people here at Eastminster who spend time every week with a small group of men from this refugee haven, and I want to share their story with you.

The Mizo refugee community live in Clarkston but they are originally from Burma and northeastern India. They speak various Kukish languages and are consequently limited in the United States. A great majority of ethnic Mizo people are Christians. The major Christian denomination is Presbyterian (majority). They had a translator who left and returned to India, leaving a need for the community to learn the language.

In July 2013, a call went out to the congregation for volunteers interested in getting English as a Second Language (ESL) training that was arranged through Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta located in Decatur. Fifteen people responded, and 7 were able to participate in two Saturday training sessions in August. One of the goals of successful refugee resettlement is to have access to English language classes and/or tutors. English as a Second Language (ESL) study will increase employment opportunities and promote successful integration of newcomers into the metro-Atlanta community. Volunteering to assist in ESL has been an opportunity for Eastminster to reach out to our local community and build a lasting connection with the Mizo people in this Burmese community.

George Tatro, pastor of Memorial Drive Presbyterian, offered classroom space in this church which is close to apartments where these families live. Alice Day and Linda Redman met with contact person for the Mizo, Emmanuel, to discuss scheduling tutoring sessions, and he indicated 7-10 men were interested and wanted to participate on Tuesday evening September 10th. Through donations from church members and the Pastor's Discretionary fund we were able to purchase *Side by Side* materials for each participant.

We have learned again that change is the only constant, and flexibility has allowed us to adjust plans to meet the needs of both the men and the volunteers. The men are making progress and they are all familiar with the alphabet and are able to sound out words. They are less comfortable in conversations, and the reading levels and comprehension varies with each student but they are all very eager to learn. Volunteers enjoy car pooling to Memorial Drive and this tutoring experience has built comradery and friendships. This outreach has been very rewarding for everyone involved.

We expect to enhance our efforts in fostering church connections with this community in 2014 and we want to invite more of the congregation to get involved. On Sunday March 2nd the Mizo will visit Eastminster to participate in the 11 o'clock service and join the Outreach Committee for a luncheon afterwards. If you would like to join us for lunch then plan to bring a dish to share and RSVP by contacting Linda Redman, Alice Day, or Mark Sauls. Please consider joining us and sharing a meal with our guests! This will give the families an opportunity to practice conversational English, and all of us the opportunity gain a better understanding of another culture.

Be on the lookout for these wonderful people on March 2nd and introduce yourself! Talk to a member of the Outreach Committee if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

Save the date

Mark your calendar now for Presbyterian Women's Annual Winter Fellowship to be held at Eastminster on Sat., Feb. 22. Our speaker Wendy Whaley will enlighten us with this topic: "Resting in God and Abiding in His Presence: Finding Our Identity in Christ." Many of you may have attended her Wed. evening presentations during the fall. Please remember there will be a continental breakfast beginning at 9:00 A.M. We will take a break for a pot-luck lunch, so please feel free to bring a salad, sandwiches, or dessert to share. Fellowship will conclude at approximately 2:00 P.M.



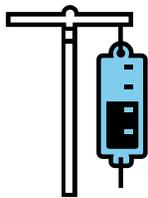
Work Day April 5

We need you to help make the annual Building and Grounds Spring Workday a success. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, April 5 from 8 a.m. - noon as we get EPC looking its best. The plan is to spread a lot of pine straw, and donations would be very much appreciated. Bales can be brought to the church April 5. If you would prefer to write a check towards the purchase of pine straw, be sure and mark it for B&G workday or for pine straw. Call Pat Carmichael 770-827-4369 or Ed Jones 770-923-6981 with any questions. See you on April 5!



March Birthdays

4	Ron Heckman	13	Michael Brieske	19	Vincent Timko	26	Marriner Smith
	Mackie Wilmer	14	Susan Hartsfield	22	Lourene Collins	28	John Hinkle
6	Mark Sauls		Linda Petty	25	Ken Carpenter	29	John Morgan
7	Danice Eaton	15	Art Scott		Mildred Magnuson	30	Maureen Griffiths
	Claudia Timko	16	Karl Alff		Buck Scott	31	Susan Dansberry
8	Kathy Peters		Zachary Burger	26	Barbara Hinkle		Samuel Gowland
10	Ashlin Swinkola		Mollie Dunn		Sally Jackson		
11	Susan Gordon		Shari McWilliams		Matthew Lee		
12	Courtney Carpenter		Patricia Willis		Ginny Mickish		
	Robert Carrick	18	Matthew Fleck		Ray Rivera		



Outreach Blood Drive

Sunday, February 16

February is not only the month for Valentines Day but is also American Heart Month. What better way to show our commitment to the health of our community than with donating blood. Because blood supplies and donations are traditionally low this time of year, your donation will impact many, giving them a chance at life. Hebrews 13:2 charges us to "let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have entertained angels". Come, be that angel, be a "Valentine" and give from your heart the gift of life. The LifeSouth Blood Van will be here Sunday, February 16, 8:30 am - 1 pm in the parking lot. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex but all last minute donors are welcome. Requirements are that you be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and bring a photo ID. Come, give from your heart, you have the power to save a life!!

Outreach Committee



Mug?

Have you misplaced your favorite mug?
The church kitchen has acquired quite a collection of mismatched mugs, so stop by and claim any that are yours.

Found!

- ◆ Black scarf
- ◆ Gold earring
- ◆ Tony Hillerman paperback book



Thank you...

- ◆ I would like to thank my Eastminster family for your support after the tragic loss of my nephew. Your prayers, notes, and calls helped so much and we are forever grateful.

Blessings, The Matthews Family

- ◆ Eastminster has a reputation of embracing people and we certainly felt embraced on January 12th at the baby shower that Eastminster threw for us. The decorations were beautiful, the food was delicious, the company was wonderful, and the gifts were very thoughtful and abundant! We wanted to say thank you to everyone who was involved, particularly the Deacons, Pat and Carol Carmichael, Renee Boven, Vicki Watchulonis, Marjorie Crawford, Linda Chapman, Sally McMillan, Marty Hillman, and everyone who brought food. We are honored to have a family like Eastminster surrounding our growing family!

In Christ, Mark and Sarah Sauls



Hope for the Hungry

"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor."

The following items have been suggested by the Lillburn and Stone Mountain Co-ops as needed. Each pound of food contributed will be matched by the national Feinstein Foundation. The list is divided into food and nonfood items. Please feel free to include any practical item that is not included on this list. All items should be non-perishable. Our food drive begins Sunday, March 2 and ends on Sunday, April 27. Please place all items in containers in narthex, adjacent to church office, and designated receptacles located in hallway outside Founders Hall on 3rd floor and next to elevator at preschool entrance on 2nd floor. Questions? Call the church office. THANK YOU, YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

FOOD:

flour
sugar
coffee (small jars)
soup
low sugar cereal (dry and hot)
jelly

peanut butter
milk (dry) (Parmalat)
tuna
rice
jello
vegetables (canned)
grits (instant)

oatmeal (instant)
dried beans
fruit (canned)
meat (canned)
macaroni and cheese (boxed)
pasta (canned)
spaghetti sauce

alfredo sauce
pesto sauce
dry spaghetti, macaroni,
fettucini
juice (bottled and boxed)

PERSONAL CARE OR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

toothpaste
soap (liquid and bar)

toothbrush
shaving cream
razor (disposable)
diapers

Depends
shampoo
wipes (baby)
Wet Ones

detergent (laundry)
detergent (dish)
toilet paper
Kleenex



Valentine's Celebration Dance A Senior Prom for the Rest of Us

Saturday, February 15, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Come dance to the songs we played when we were in high school and college
(back when they had lyrics you could understand)!

Put on a party dress, wear your best suit and come for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Please forward this to your friends and invite them. This should be a lot of fun,
just like high school or college but you

can't get caught! Be a part of the party, bring your favorite song and we'll play it.
Bring your favorite snack and we'll share it.

Wednesday Night Programs

Feb. 19th

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University (FPU)* is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! **This Wednesday Night Program will be led by Rev. John Lattimore** who will share with us an overview of the plan to see how many of us might be interested in participating. If enough people are interested, we would sponsor this course here at Eastminster. If you are interested and cannot attend this overview, please contact Mardee.

Feb. 26th

Values in Today's Movies - The Academy Awards are Sunday, March 2. There are 10 movies nominated for Best Picture. What makes them worthy of this nomination? Are values for society a contributing factor? What is your choice? Let's talk about them together (and make our preferences and predictions in advance!)

March 5

Ash Wednesday Worship Service in Founders Hall. We will have both the Imposition of Ashes and Communion. Please join us for this very moving start to the Lenten season.

March 12 through April 16

Lenten Bible Study - Rev. Caleb Clarke will lead the study "Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul." Lent is, among other things, a journey of learning how to appropriate Christ's teaching about "taking up the cross" (Mark 8:34-35) for ourselves. Participants will examine a number of passages in Paul's letters in order to reflect on the place of the cross in our lives today.

Participant readings are available in downloaded print copy or an emailed PDF that can be read on your computer. Contact Mardee by email at mrighmyer@gmail.com and she will email the files to you.



Join a Circle!

All women are invited to attend a circle at Eastminster. We presently have combined the "Circle of Love and Friendship" with the "Circle of Blessings."

This group of women meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 A.M. in the Adult Center. Light refreshments will be served. Susan Adle is our Bible moderator and Marjory Crawford is our facilitator. The "Evening Stars Circle" meet in the church parlor the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00 P.M. Jeanne Simpson is the Bible moderator and Janet Uthlaut is the facilitator. Even if you haven't visited a circle in the past, consider the opportunity of enriching Bible study and cheerful fellowship. You will be welcomed warmly. Looking forward to Tuesday, March 4. Come join us!

THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Fax: 770-879-9590
Preschool: 770-469-4880
School Age Program: 770-469-9489

DEADLINES

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. Friday, February 28
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Director of Mission and Youth ~ 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