

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 8, 2012

Stories

In Paul's second letter to Timothy he declares that the Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching us the truth, showing us what we do wrong and training us to live God's way and that through the Word of God we are put together and shaped for the tasks God has for us (2Timothy 3:16). In a few weeks we will begin a journey through the Scripture which I pray will be both awe inspiring and life changing. So just a few words as we prepare to embark on such a journey.

The first thing we need to 'pack' in preparation for this venture is an understanding of the purpose of the Bible. That purpose, in its simplest form, is to disclose God's purpose to redeem and restore all of humankind and indeed all of creation. The Bible is not a scientific book. Science is the body of knowledge painstakingly acquired by observation, experiment, and induction. The purpose of God through Scripture, however, has been to disclose truths not discoverable by the empirical method, but which would have remained unknown if not revealed by him. Nor is the purpose of the Bible literary. The purpose of the Bible is found in its message, not its style. And neither is the purpose of the Bible philosophical. It does contain great wisdom but instead of trying to philosophize about the origin and purpose of suffering and evil, it tells us how we, through Christ, bear them. So what then has God spoken? His word is a divine self disclosure.

We will study that divine self disclosure on three levels. The first level is what we will be calling God's Upper Story. As we view the Bible through this Upper Story we see that God has been up to something amazing from the very beginning. It is the details of God's plan of redemption. In fact we need to understand the Upper Story before we can fully grasp the significance of the events of the Lower Story.

The Lower Story reveals the here and now of daily life. It reveals the experiences and circumstances here on earth: goals and fears, responsibilities and reactions. For instance, we look at a young Joseph in the Egyptian prison. Here is a bright, talented young man wasting away behind bars and it makes no sense. But from the Upper Story we see God protecting him in prison so he can use him in the palace. As has been said he was: "Sentenced today so that he could serve God tomorrow." Which takes us to the third Story...our own Story.

We each have a Story which gains its meaning and significance through understanding the Upper Story. It is our prayer that at the end of the Book not only will we have a better understanding of God's Story, but be overwhelmed by his love as revealed in Christ Jesus and know how our own Story fits in. Our claim for the Bible is that it unfolds God's total plan; my hope for our journey is that each of us will see how very important our Story is to that plan.

Blessings,

Caleb

Note:

The church office will
be closed on
Monday, September 3
for Labor Day.



PW Fall Workshop ~ Saturday, August 25

Schedule:

9 - 9:30	Registration
9:30-11:45	Morning Session
11:45-12:30	Lunch
12:45-2	Afternoon Session

Where?

Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church
800 Lawrenceville Hwy.
Lawrenceville 30046

Topics

Leaders

Bible Study Overview	Janet Boyce, Newnan Presbyterian Church
Celebration Giving	Jo Ann Nelson, District 2 Leader
Kenyan Women Updates	TBA
Leadership	Mable Jones-Allen, PW Moderator
PW Manual Review	Mary Bullock, District Leader Coordinator
Treasurer 101	Connie Seidel, PW Treasurer

RSVP:

Church - 770-963-9498
Jo Ann Nelson - 404-791-3679

Questions?

Mary Bullock - 678-423-0233



September Birthdays

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

You are cordially invited to attend

The Tenth Season Concert

of the

*Lilburn Summer
Fingers*

Music of American Composers

including works by

*Samuel Adler, René Clausen, William Dawson, Daniel Gawthrop,
Moses Hogan, Morton Lauridson and Randall Thompson.*

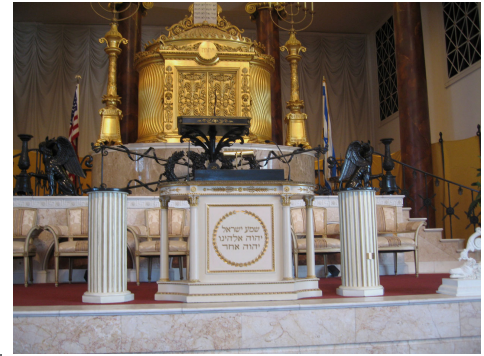
Sunday ~ August 19 ~ 3:00 pm

**Eastminster Presbyterian Church
5801 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087**

For additional information please call 770-469-4881



spent a sacred summer...



at The Temple, Peachtree St.

June 29

at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox, Decatur

July 13



at St. Phillips Cathedral, Peachtree Street

July 23





Winds up the summer with a

Tomato Sandwich Luncheon ~ Thursday, August 23, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ~ Adult Center

Tomatoes, white bread, and mayonnaise provided. You bring desired sandwich fillings (or not), and a side to share.

Looking forward

Outings and tours

Carlos Museum	Thursday, September 27, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Chick-fil-A	TBA
Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Monday, October 22, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Apple picking in Elijah	Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Delta Air Lines	Tuesday, November 6, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Stone Mountain Barbershop Chorus	Saturday, November 10, 3 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Duluth	

The Bible and brunch

How do they go together? We will study the Bible and enjoy brunch. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Adult Center, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 13

Thursday, October 18

Thursday, November 15

DBE's (the out to lunch bunch) 2nd Monday of the month 12:15

August 13	Always Fresh-Mountain Park
September 10	The Greater Good Barbeque-Tucker
October 8	Red Lobster-Lilburn
November 12	TBA
December 10	Annual Christmas lunch at EPC

Look for details in upcoming WITNESS publications and Sunday bulletins

Welcome Back Potluck Picnic

Sunday September 9th

@ Lilburn Park in downtown Lilburn

5:00-7:00pm

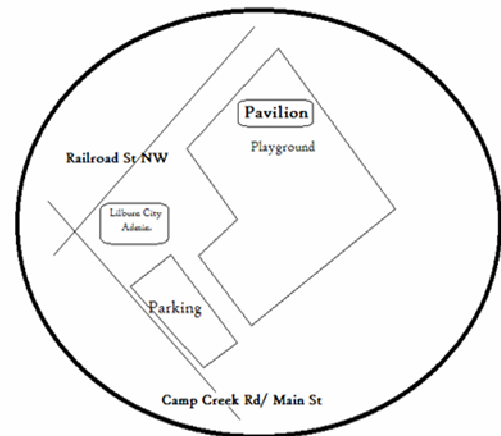
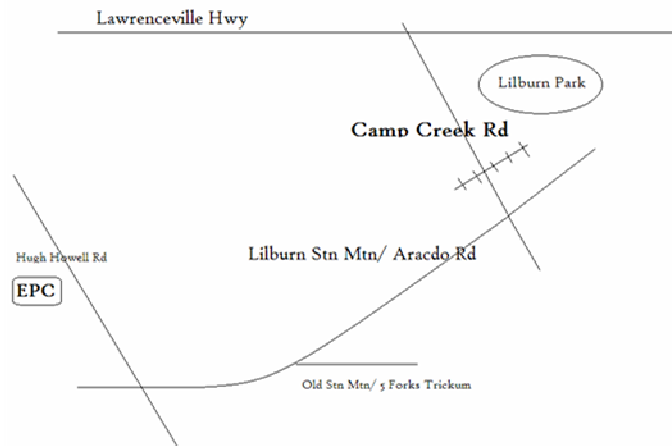
Bring a blanket / tailgate chair and your favorite side dish to share. There will be games for the kids and a playground for monkeying around. BBQ will be provided. Side dish assignment below, if you need a suggestion:

(Last name alphabetical order)

A-G: *Desserts*

H-N: *Vegetables*

O-Z: *Starch*



Christian Education

2012-2013

Sunday, August 19th 9:55 a.m. Exciting New Programs Coming!!!! Everyone is invited to Founders Hall to learn about the new opportunities for education in the faith at Eastminster. Classes will be introduced – including three for children, two for youth and four for adults. In addition, there will be highlights of one time and short series programs **and** training for a new online website link for home and personal growth!

Sunday, August 26th 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Classes resume for all ages.

Highlights: There will be a separate class for K-1st Graders as well as a class for 2nd-5th grades.

All children and youth as well as one adult class will begin a 31 week study of **The Story**, an abridged chronological Bible using the (NIV) New International Version. There are no verse references in **the text and the segments of scripture are woven together with transition text written to connect the** storyline so it reads like a seam-less story. This study will be used from August 26 until November 25. We will have a month break to follow Advent and Christmas then we will pick up with **The Story** again on January 6 and continue through the month of April.

In addition, three other adult classes will continue studies as follows:

Bible Sampler led by Marty Hillman and Sally Jackson will use **The Mighty Acts of God** by Arnold Rhode, revised by Eugene March. This classic book provides a profound look at the overall story of the Bible in the context of the mighty acts God has used to continually draw people back to God's love.

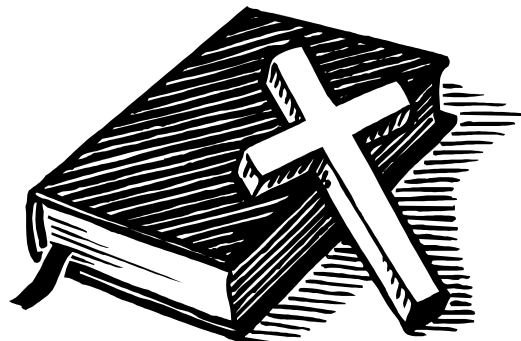
Seasons of Faith led by Robert Thompson will study "What's so Amazing About Grace?" by Phillip Yancey, a wonderful book with new insight regarding God's grace. This is the same author of "The Bible Jesus Read" which we studied last year.

Women of Faith led by Ginny Matthews will continue their study of **Encounters with Jesus: The Gospel of John** by Francis Taylor Gench.

Wednesday Night Programs – BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5

Modifying last year's monthly rotation of approaches to the Wed. night programs, this year will add extra insight into **The Story's** "story of the week." Once (and sometimes twice) a month, seminary professors from Columbia, Candler and ITC – the Interdenominational Theological Center, will highlight a midweek study of **The Story** as they bring extra insight to the story for that particular week. Additional material will come from DVD presentations, and programs that highlight modern equivalent stories of the story of the week.

The Story and other curriculum items will be available August 19 on Rally Day at the introductory program at 9:55 a.m.



News and Requests from Mission Haven

Mission Haven in Decatur provides housing for Presbyterian missionaries on leave in the States. Presbyterian Women own three houses and a six unit apartment building which are totally furnished; the housing is provided free of charge to our Christian workers. We continually need to replace furniture and household goods, so please keep the missionaries in mind for donations. We especially need desks, bookcases, and chests of drawers. We can also use dining room tables and upholstered furniture. Call Rick or Susan Adle for more information 770 498 0532.

Mission Haven has been very full lately. The Turks are returning to Madagascar after two years here. Their return was delayed because of political unrest, but they feel confident in going back to the mission field with their two teenage children. The McGills went back to Malawi with their six children in late July. Jim will continue his work with clean water and sanitation, while Jodi returns to teach at the nursing school and to work in public health. The Dimmocks also left in late July with four of their eight children for Lesotho. Frank works in hospital administration for the Presbyterian church, and Nancy runs an at risk nursery for children.

Quick on the heels of these families leaving, Ferris and Thelma Goodrum moved into one of the houses with their two sons. One son is in college and the other will be in high school. They serve the seminary supported by EPC in Brazil. Another house was occupied after a two day turnaround by Dr. Barbara Nagy and her three girls. She has come to attend a two year masters program in public health at Emory to help with her work in Malawi. Meanwhile family and friends of all the families have stayed briefly in the apartments as they say goodbye and help pack—or unpack. The Lems from Korea are also in one apartment, which will serve as their base to call on their supporting churches.

For several years Eastminster sponsored Larry and Inge Sthreshley in the Congo. They were at Mission Haven in late July to bring their daughter, Lisa, to enroll at Emory in the same masters program that Barbara Nagy will attend. We were able to supply her with a couch and a bed, since she did not have any furniture for her apartment near Emory.

Hopefully this brief information will assure you that your donations will be well used. After over forty years of constant use, much of our “durable” furniture is giving out. Keep your ears open for any opportunities that come your way to tell our story!



Special Needs for Stone Mountain Co-op

Stone Mountain Co-op is requesting these food staples to fill their shelves: Canned vegetables, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry soap, cereal, snack foods, juice, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, spaghetti, tuna, and canned fruits. Please consider adding a few of these items to your grocery cart each week and bring them to the church. Your support is appreciated.

Outreach Committee



Fall 2012 class is forming

Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of Eastminster are trained and organized to help provide Christian care giving to members of our congregation and community.

Everyone benefits

- ♦ Jesus says "Whatever you did for the least of these . . .
- ♦ 50 hours of training, Monday, Sept. 10-Jan. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ♦ We bear another's burdens
- ♦ Part of something big-thousands of Stephen congregations
- ♦ **SMILE: Stephen Ministry Is Life Encouragement**
- ♦ 18 Stephen Ministers at EPC; 12 in caring relationships

If you are one who wants to learn about life and adjustment, balance, change, compassion, control, crisis, care, stress, support, and God's call, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Speak with Robert Thomson or Mary Clarke about the upcoming class.



Save the date ~

Congregational Pot Luck Lunch

Sunday, August 26

Please join us for lunch as we say goodbye to Ed Weaver, our faithful and gifted music director on Sunday August 26 following the 11:00 service. The church will provide meat and beverages. Bring your favorite dish to share.

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



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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. **Friday, August 31**
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Church Staff

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