

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

November 14, 2012

Advent

It is hard to believe, but November is here and before we know it Thanksgiving will be just another memory for the year 2012. But the good news is that there is good news in the coming of Christ and we look forward to the Advent Season. Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (December 24).

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is with that hope which we enter this holiday season, and we can look forward to a compilation of Advent Devotionals prepared by members of Eastminster. These devotionals will be recorded on a CD and will be offered to each and every member of EPC. These recordings will reflect on the subject of the Sunday sermons to be given during December leading up to Christmas. We will be taking a break from our journey through *The Story* as we explore four questions which Jesus asked his disciples and four questions which are still relevant for us today. These questions come out of Mark's Gospel and are:

"How many loaves do you have?" (Mark 6:30-44)

"Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-30)

"Why are you so afraid?" (Mark 4:35-41)

"What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:46-52)

Our hope is that this devotional CD and Sermon series will be a great joy to you and your family as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child.

Blessings,

Caleb

Notice:

The Church Office will be closed on
Thursday, November 22 for Thanksgiving.



Giving and Receiving

All who attended the annual PW Fall Luncheon on Sunday, September 23 were treated to an entertaining, interesting, and thought-provoking message presented by our speaker, Jeanne Simpson. Many thanks to her for sharing the experiences, opportunities, and inspiration she received while serving the Lord in South Africa. Kudos to everyone who contributed to the "Thank Offering". We collected approximately \$375 to support 26 national and international ministries involved with improving health care, schools, social service projects, environmental concerns, and building projects.



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 18 through December 9. 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 cash or check (designate Lilburn or Stone Mountain Co-op) in envelope provided. Checks can be written to either Lilburn or Stone Mtn. Co-op. 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.



December Birthdays

4	Meredith Mitchell	16	Ben Gerard	23	Pete Heckman	29	Lynne Scott
10	Robert McManus		Courtney Moore		Blake Vincent		Kiera Swinkola
	Steve Stewart	17	Jennifer Streich	25	Courtney Petty	30	Sarah Sauls
	Paul Timko	18	Matthew Adams		Kristen Terpstra		Siena Watchulonis
11	Dot Zegel		Zachary Burrell	27	Lee McCoy	31	Kenton McWilliams
12	Steve Burger	22	Alex Sumner		Zach Smethers		
13	Samille Malloy	23	Sally Gryder	28	Kyle Ferry		

Found

copper framed prescription glasses



Wanted!

If anyone has a working refrigerator that can be donated to Eastminster to replace the one in the Adult Center, please contact Pat Carmichael at 770-827-4369. Thanks!

Congratulations to

Keith and Courtney Moore on the birth of their son, Wyatt Gregory, born October 23. Proud grandparents are Zandie and Steve Burger.



You know who you are!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those who volunteered their time and talents Saturday, November 3 at the Fall Workday. Your efforts are evident both inside the building and on the grounds: fresh pine straw spread, bushes pruned, playground tended to, narthex and sanctuary cleaned. Everyone who came did so ready and willing to work, and a lot was accomplished.



Breakfast with Santa

The Stone Mountain Co-op is sponsoring "Breakfast With Santa" again this year. Mark your calendars for Sat., Dec. 1 from 7:00 A.M.-10:00 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 for adults, children 4 + are \$5, 3 and under are free). This will include breakfast, a picture with Santa, and a Silent Auction for 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.



Come and join us in December!

Monday, December 10:30-12:30, Adult Center

Christmas Brunch and Lunch

Bring a brunch/lunch item to share. Fun and fellowship as we share the spirit of the season.

This event takes the place of the December DBE out-to-lunch bunch

Wednesday, December 12, 10 am –2 pm

ASO Christmas concert at North Avenue Presbyterian

A lunch time concert of holiday music presented by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Free of charge.

Concert 11:45-12:45, doors open at 11:15.

Please call the church office in order to coordinate transportation.

Saturday, December 15, 8:30-1:30

Journey to Bethlehem

Georgia, that is, to mail your Christmas cards with the Bethlehem postmark. Enjoy Christmas shopping and lunch in Madison on the return from the journey to Bethlehem.

And in 2013 . . .

Monthly Bible/Brunch gatherings

Spiritual study during Lent

CNN tour

Margaret Mitchell House visit

Tour the Fabulous Fox

Chick-Fil-A tour

Hiawasse River Rail Adventure

Cagle's Dairy Farm, Canton

Persimmon Creek Vineyards, Clayton

Caring Tree - 25th Anniversary

The "Caring Tree" has remained an Eastminster tradition since 1987. For the past 25 years we have cheerfully given gifts to individuals and families in our community encouraging the holiday spirit among others as well as within our congregation. FYI the delicate crocheted ornaments that adorn the tree each year following the removal of the cards with family/nursing home resident names was a gift from an elderly woman who happened to be one of the first recipients of our generosity. She carefully and joyfully prepared them with skillful hands and a loving thankful heart.

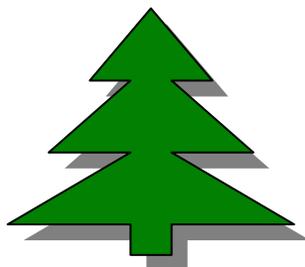
Volunteers are always needed before and on "Caring Tree" Sunday, Dec. 16. We will be setting up the "Caring Tree" on Wed., Nov. 14 at 4:00 P.M. in the narthex. Cards will be available for you to take off the tree beginning at that time. There will be a poster available for you to write your name next 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. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 9. If you have time and desire to assist with extra shopping, please let us know. We always appreciate extra hands to sort, wrap, and deliver gifts "Caring Tree" Sunday. Lunch will be provided.

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 FAMILIIES. PLEASE CHECK THE AREAS WHERE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WISH TO VOLUNTEER.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

- _____ Helping set up "Caring Tree" in Narthex on November 14.
- _____ 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, December 16 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. 16.





Advent Festival – Sunday, December 2nd

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to stay after worship on Sunday, December 2nd for a soup and sandwich lunch and the opportunity to prepare for Advent (which begins that day) by making an advent wreath for your home, a cross stitch ornament for your tree, a Nativity diorama, handmade Christmas cards, and a miniature gingerbread house. Reservations are requested to make sure we have enough food and supplies for everyone. Use the special purple sign up cards in the pew rack, call the church office, or email Mardee at educator.epc@gmail.com by Wed. Nov. 28th.



Wednesday Night Programs

November 21 Happy Thanksgiving! (No dinner or program)

November 28 Advent Preparation Part 1

We will be adding signs and symbols of the Advent and Christmas season to both Founders Hall and the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to help prepare part one of the decorations from 6:30 to 7:15.

December 5 Advent Preparation Part 2

We will finish the preparations for Founders Hall and the Sanctuary on this evening. There will be something for everyone to do! Many hands make light work.

December 12 "Catch Your Breath" Night 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

As a gift to families in our congregation, preschool and after school programs, church members will provide free childcare, crafts, activities and pizza supper while parents and guardians have a chance to catch their breath for the evening. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts: either 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. We will need people to help with registration, nursery to two year old childcare, servers/ clean up for supper, craft supervisors, activities supervisors, movie projectionists for the children ages 3-12, and children check out at the end. All directions and supplies will be provided – we just need willing hands and hearts! Please let Mardee know if you can help! Email to educator.epc@gmail.com or call her at the church 770-469-4881 ext 228.

December 19 Christmas Pageant 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary

All children ages 4- 12 within the congregation, preschool and afterschool have been invited to participate in a traditional presentation of the Christmas story. You will not want to miss this cast of ??'s (who knows how many until the day of!) in their wonderful portrayal of Christ's birth through drama and song.

December 26 Holiday Rest for All No Program



THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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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, November 30**
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
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