

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

April 9, 2014

Remembering...

Give us a spirit of wisdom, generosity and perseverance as we strive to do your will. That is exactly what our founding members did!

Imagine the small group of 36 people that were the Charter members of Eastminster in 1967. Imagine the wisdom, generosity and perseverance needed as they moved into the community in which we now reside. Imagine when in May, 1968 our sanctuary was completed from "the benevolence of others". They started small, but were great in Spirit.

Our world, our nation, and even our community has changed so much that most of us don't know what the area or culture was like when these members started ministry. In May of 1968, when our Sanctuary was completed, Lyndon Johnson was President, war raged in Vietnam, and Martin Luther King had just been assassinated. There was racial unrest throughout much of the country, especially the South, but Atlanta was called "The city too busy to hate".

Top television shows included everything from "Rowan & Martin's Laugh In" to "Gomer Pyle, USMC". The space program had a mission in 1968 to land on the moon, and that goal would become a reality by 1969. There were no computers, cell phones, or internet, and most communication came by word of mouth, a newspaper, or the nightly news. In Atlanta, hippies were moving into 10th Street, but the suburbs were still family oriented, and churches were still centers of the community.

In our community the carving was still being carved on Stone Mountain. It wasn't considered complete until 1972. Stone Mountain Freeway was under construction, but not completed until 1970. Stone Mountain was a small town that had a history of its own, and Tucker was also a small town with an identity. Our community, for the most part, was white suburbia, and that included most of the area between Tucker and Stone Mountain, and nearby Clarkston. Gwinnett County was still very rural.

The founding members created a Statement of Purpose in 1967. It seems remarkable that it is still so relevant to the church today. There was no evidence of a scarcity mentality, but rather one of being open minded and open to the movement of the Spirit as they moved forward in faith. The Statement of Purpose stated:

1. A service ministry, we are service centered and not survival centered.
2. Create a place of Worship; Christ is present in everything we do.
3. Provide spiritual growth for present and future generations, an essential relationship, to learn about God in Christ and man's relationship to Him and to others.
4. Long range plans to build up the support of missions abroad, as well as, at home, realizing the fact that it was through benevolence giving of others that we were started as a church.

O LORD, OUR GOD,

Inspire us to be open to the movement of the Spirit in this rapidly changing world in which we live. Help us to use this facility for your divine purpose. Inspire us to make the commitments needed to come in faith, building together for your glory, whatever that might be.

Amen.

Peggy McCurdy

Financial Peace

Plan to be part of the Financial Peace course being offered here at EPC beginning Wednesday, April 23 through June 18. Learn God's way of handling money so that you can be free to live and give as God would lead you. The class begins at 6 p.m. in the Adult Center and is over by 7:30. If you have questions, see Caleb or go to www.daveramsey.com.

Thanks!

Thank you to our Eastminster family for all the cards, wishes and prayers following my brief hospital visit.

Lynn Stacer



Mother's Day Cards

This year we have another opportunity to purchase special "Mother's Day" cards while contributing to our Presbyterian Women organization. You may select as many as you wish and give them to mothers, grandmothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, daughters, granddaughters, friends, colleagues, etc. A donation of \$5 or more is suggested. Janet Uthlaut is our contact person. She will have cards available before and following worship services, at Wed. night suppers and during our April 27 PW Birthday luncheon.

PW 2014 Annual Birthday Luncheon

We're looking forward to another inspiring Spring/Birthday luncheon on Sunday, April 27 following the 11:00 A.M. worship service in Founders Hall. Please bring a salad (congealed, tossed, layered, marinated, taco, chicken, fruit, etc.) to share. Beverages, bread, and a birthday cake will be served as well. Our speaker will be Sherri Bozardt, the Georgia Advancement Officer for Thornwell Home and School located in Clinton, SC. Anticipating her message concerning the history, nurture, education, services, spiritual encouragement, and opportunities for all Presbyterian churches in our synod to get involved with this vital and exciting ministry. We will also be installing PW Council officers for the 2014-2015 year and presenting our Life Membership award. Information will be available on the tables regarding donations for the birthday offering and the national and international organizations that will receive these contributions. Janet Uthlaut will explain more about this offering during the luncheon. Invite a friend and enjoy the food and fellowship together!



May Birthdays

1 Mary Beth Hamburger	11 Zach Weyher	19 Thomas Brandon	29 Marjory Crawford
3 Zachary Wilborn	14 Mardee Rightmyer	20 Annalise Peters	Kevin Hamburger
6 Kathy Harrison	15 Larry Bentley	24 Richard Kellogg	Andy Heckman
7 Lauren McCormick	Kallan Sorenson	Kris Lord	Richard Staten
8 Felicia Szathmari	16 Joy Meade	25 Bill Hutchinson	30 Caroline Thompson
9 Cari Mitchell	17 Barbara Delong	John Maly	Rebecca Willis
10 Linda Chapman	LaRue Gerard	27 Gary Gaskill	31 Taylor Boven
11 Carolyn Coons	18 Blake Staten	28 Margaret Moseley	Wayne McCornick

Columbia Friendship Day

Don't forget to save April 24 on your calendar. Join us for "Come See Columbia" day at the seminary. Registration begins at 9:00 A.M., worship at 10:00 A.M., presentation of the scholarship recipients at 11:00 A.M., followed by lunch at 12:30 P.M. There will be campus tours at 1:30 P.M. Susan Adle has agreed to take us on a tour of the student residences that Alice Day, Rene Boven, and she have refurbished. If you would like to carpool, please contact your Circle facilitators, Marjory Crawford and Janet Uthlaut. Looking forward to an uplifting experience!



Dear Eastminster Family,

Thank you for making my 85th a fabulous extended celebration. Cards, emails, over 40 renditions of "Happy Birthday" in every conceivable key -- all came together to make this a memorable birthday season; and then on Sunday, the banner with "Happy Birthday Aunt Sally" (in Georgia Tech colors no less!), the baseball cupcake with its lone candle, and yet another singing of "Happy Birthday" topped it all off -- with yet one more card in my mailbox that I had not retrieved on Saturday. Blessings on each of you dear ones.

Love, Aunt Sally



Easter Lily Order Form

If you would like to place a lily 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, April 15*. Cost: \$10 each. (Make check payable to Eastminster and mark in the corner "Lily".)

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 _____

Capital Campaign Opening Day Highlights

Take me out to Easminster,
Take me out with the crowd,
Great Faith, Great Future awaits us,
With this effort, we all should be proud,
So it's root, root, root for the home team,
All are part of the game.
For it's 1, 2, 3 hits you're in,
When you sign your name!

Over 85 attended, Eastminster's Opening Day "First Pitch" for the Capital Campaign event. Ball park favorite foods were enjoyed followed by a slide presentation of the proposed projects and goals. Please plan to attend one or more of the following events to learn more and have your questions answered.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVENT!

Come to a presentation about the plan to pay off our loan on the roof and make other improvements to our church home.

Our pastor and others involved in planning and implementation will be available to discuss and answer questions.

Please plan to attend one of these informational gatherings. This is one of the best ways to receive campaign details.

Please review the complete listing of events, and RSVP if applicable.

On May 14, you are invited to sing and pray together to draw closer to God and seek his will as his disciples and stewards.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Wine & Cheese
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Home of Bill & Beverly Hutchinson
107 Roe Hampton Lane,
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Adults—Limit 30
Please RSVP church office 770-469-4881,
email eastminsterpres@yahoo.com, or
sign up in narthex

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Biscuits & Beignets
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Home of Chip & Janice Wilmot
1450 Country Lake Drive,
Lilburn, GA 30047
Adults—Limit 30
Please RSVP church office 770-469-4881,
email eastminsterpres@yahoo.com, or
sign up in narthex

SATURDAY, MAY 10

9:00-10:30 a.m.
Cinnamon Rolls and Coffee in the EPC
Courtyard and Walking Tour. Home-
made cinnamon rolls by Barbara
Hinkle! Tour led by Pat Carmichael,
Chair of Building & Grounds
Committee.
Open to all—Childcare provided

THURSDAY, MAY 15

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
OASIS—Potluck, bring dish to share and
walking tour to see proposed improve-
ments.
Open to all ages

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

6:45-7:30 p.m.
Vesper Service, Prayer and
Music in Founders Hall
Open to all

COMMITMENT SUNDAY ♦ JUNE 1, 2014



B&G Thanks!

Many, many thanks from B&G to the 21 hard-working folks who attended the work-day last Saturday and got EPC in shape for Palm Sunday and Easter. A lot of pine straw was put out on the front bank, and around the entrances and the courtyard. The courtyard was pressure washed, shrubs were trimmed and the fountains were cleaned out. Pine straw was removed from the roof gutters and the EPC sign was cleaned and new stencils were applied. Inside, the wood in the sanctuary was dusted/polished, the kitchen was cleaned thoroughly and batteries were replaced throughout the church in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It's incredible how much work was accomplished in one morning! Check out the pictures on the bulletin board in the gym lobby area to see the volunteers in action!

Yours?

There is quite a collection of umbrellas in the hallway near the church office - by the outside door and hanging on the coat pegs. Come and find yours!



Volunteers Needed

Eastminster has been requested to secure volunteers for the Stone Mtn. Co-op from May 14-June 4 this year. Days are Mondays and Wednesdays (9:45 A.M.-2:00 P.M.) and Fridays (9:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M.). Responsibilities include: Sorting, shelving, and bagging food items. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Two individuals per session are suggested to serve. Please write your name and phone number on lines provided. Please contact Linda Chapman: Home: 770-921-9538, Cell: 404-578-0610, E-mail: lin_rod_stmntn@bellsouth.net for any questions or further information.

Outreach Committee



Thanks PW!

- ♦ I do feel like a queen with the packed wonderful Valentine's Box I just received. Thank you so much! This is my last one with graduation from seminary in May. I'll miss the cards and goodies and love!

Jeanne Simpson

- ♦ Thank you so much for the lovely Valentine's Day box filled with goodies. They certainly went fast, especially all the chocolate! School is going well, and Wesleyan is such a lovely place. I can't wait until the end of the year, though, so I can come back regularly to EPC.

Take care, Allison Crochet

- ♦ Many thanks for the fantastic Valentine's Day goodie box! The school supplies were much needed, as was the candy. As a music performance major at the University of Georgia, sometimes activities, obligations, and school work collide and create a very tough schedule. As I am in the middle of playing for the school's current opera, Wind symphony, and Symphonic Band and studying for tests galore, this is one of those times. Sometimes after a long day of rehearsals and classes, some hot chocolate or candy is exactly what I need. I am loving my first year of college, and I am working hard to learn the skills I need to obtain the career I want. I truly appreciate having such a caring community at Eastminster, and I hope all is well with the congregation. Thank you again! God bless.

Sincerely, Savanna Lawing





Wednesday Worship 6:45 p.m. April 16

Our final **Wednesday night Lenten study** April 16 will be adapted for a Holy Week Worship Service. Come for dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the gym (be sure to make a reservation) or join us in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m.

Supper and Worship in Homes 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17

Everyone is invited to experience the events of **Maundy Thursday** (the night Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples) by gathering in small groups in individual homes to share a meal and the Lord's Supper. Susan and Rick Adle, Bev and Bill Hutchinson (with Caroline Thompson), Rueleen Kapsch, Shelley & Ron Lee, Mardee Rightmyer, Sarah and Mark Sauls, Charlene and Aaron Smith along with Mackie Wilmer (with Janet and Scott Uthlaut) at Park Springs are hosting supper (to be provided by the participants) and designated elders will lead in worship. You can find the signup sheet for each home on the bulletin board in the narthex of the sanctuary or call Mardee at church and she will add your name to a home. **Please sign up by Sunday, April 13** to provide time to coordinate the supper.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. April 18

Eastminster Presbyterian, Smoke Rise Baptist and Mountain Park United Methodist are participating in Good Friday worship at Mountain Park UMC, located at 1405 Rockbridge Rd. at 7:00 p.m. There will be a combined choir along with liturgical leadership from all three churches.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Everyone will gather in the courtyard (weather permitting) at 9:45 for Easter pastries, a short lively lesson and the flowering of the cross. If you have blooming flowers in your yard, please bring some to add to the beauty. At 11:00 we will raise our Hallelujahs to the Risen Lord in joyous worship. (NOTE: NO 9:00 worship this morning)



Plant Sale

Mountain Shadow Garden Club will be holding its annual plant sale in the lower parking lot on Saturday, April 26th from 8:00 until 3:00. If there are any particular plants that you would be interested in purchasing, please contact Scott Uthlaut at 770-923-9762 or Ron Hickes at 770-469-5376.

Coming June 2-6



FROZEN WEEK!

Vacation Bible School starts the summer with a wintery tale of frozen land and frozen hearts. What can break the ice? Only love – a very special kind of love. Children who have finished Pre-K through fifth grade are invited to join us for a joyous week as we learn how to thaw our minds and hearts through the greatest love there is – the love of God shown to us through Jesus.

The time will be 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. which will allow the summer camp program to join church members and guests for the entire week. Details and registration forms coming soon! Questions? Ask Mardee or Celeste.

EPC OASIS Spring Fling

When: Thursday, April 17 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
 Where: Ronald Reagan Park, 2777 Five Forks Trickum Road,
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044
 What to bring: An appetite (food will be furnished)
 What to wear: Shorts if you dare, casuals in any case
 Contact Al Stacer alstacer@gmail.com for more information



Easter Egg Hunt!

You're invited to an Easter Egg Hunt at the home of Charlene and Aaron Smith on Sunday, April 13. The hunt will start at 4:00 followed by a hot dog dinner. Please bring a dish to share (no dessert). Rain date is April 19 at noon. Call 770-978-6503 with any questions.

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. Wednesday, April 30
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 Zabarak