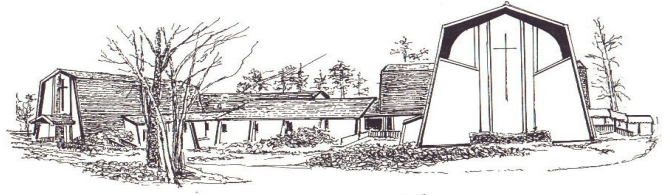


THE WITNESS



The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to
share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all.

EPC Mission Statement ~ Adopted by Session 2011

June 11, 2014

Signs

I remember walking into the church many years ago to attend a meeting. It was the first time I had entered the downstairs office entrance, and a small sign caught my attention. **Stephen Ministry**. This small insignificant sign told me that Eastminster was a Stephen Ministry church. I decided to inquire just what that meant. I continued attending various and sundry meetings as I established myself as a willing church member, seeing that sign each and every time I entered the office from the outside. Do you know what it's like to see something so frequently that you eventually become oblivious to it? Well, that was the case with me. Some months later I had begun to make friends, and I finally decided to inquire about Stephen Ministry. Little did I know it would eventually change my life. I learned that Stephen Ministry is a program for lay people to be trained to provide distinctively Christian and confidential care to people who are in need of a good listener. No, not a sort of counselor, but a listener. No, you would not offer advice or provide your own personal story, but you would listen and pray with and/or for a care receiver. I then learned that Eastminster had had the program years before, but it wasn't operating at this time. I did not realize it at the time, but a seed had been planted.

Time marched on and I soon found myself serving as a deacon. I did my share of listening in that position and found that I loved every minute of it. More time passed and I became an elder. Somewhere in that time I started a women's Sunday school class. My time was scarce, but I learned to listen more, show compassion, study scripture and pray in a way very different from that to which I was accustomed. I remember thinking that there was a reason I was feeling a calling, and though I felt very fulfilled with my duties, I still had a nagging feeling deep in my heart. God, I'm supposed to be doing something, but I can't seem to grasp it. Please God, use me. I know I can be of good use in your plan, but I just can't see the vision clearly now. Show me the way.

A few years later, God came and sat on my shoulder. I greeted him each morning, prayed with him throughout the day and night, and then I asked my question again; what would you have me do? We have certainly all learned that things happen in God's time, not ours. The answer that seemed to take an eternity was answered in the blink of an eye. At a Time and Talents kick off I learned that Stephen Ministry was coming back. I almost broke my neck trying to get to the sign up table. Before I knew what had happened, I was sitting in a training class. In that 50 hours of training, I learned more than I have learned in my !\$#+x % years of life. With training complete, I waited to see if I would ever get a "care receiver". God blessed me once again, and I entered into a year long relationship that enriched the life of myself as well as that of my care receiver.

As you would expect, God came and perched on my shoulder once again. I was beginning to get somewhat used to this, but I was ill prepared for what happened next. Yes, I went a step further and volunteered to become a Stephen Leader. What am I doing? Do you really think you can do this? Are you smart enough, strong enough, dedicated enough, capable? Probably not, I thought, but I remember something that has made me jump off the cliff more than once: "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called". With that thought I was off to St. Louis.

(Continued on page 2)

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It is impossible for me to tell you how that week changed my life. I have never been so relieved to learn that I was indeed doing what I was called to do. My previous positions at church had given me a base on which to work and find out where God wanted me to be. I returned to Atlanta and to Eastminster with a fire in my heart that I hope is never extinguished. Working with another gifted and talented person who has gone to Leader training, we are ready to GO!

In the next weeks and months you will see Beth Heckman and myself all over the place. We will be in the Narthex, the pulpit, posters will be placed, fliers will be in the pews, and we will be there to answer any questions you may have. At this point I would like to make a very important point. **You need not be at death's door or be in an extremely critical place in life to engage a Stephen Minister.** At some point in time we all go through what my father-in-law referred to as the "low down miseries". Yes, dear friends, we are there for that as well.

We are always looking for new volunteer ministers and leaders. Come and talk to myself, Beth Heckman, Mary or Caleb Clarke, or any Stephen Minister. And please never be fearful of asking for a Stephen Minister. We are more than a small sign on the door.

Ginny Matthews



July Birthdays

1	Carol Cloninger	9	Sandra Smethers	15	Alan Abraham	28	Alice Day
	Evelyn Edwards	10	Ralph Chandler		Linda Redman		Kennet Sorenson
2	Lucy Cole Gratton		Karen Foster	16	Bob Waggoner		Anne Lawing
	Mary Katherine Mitchell		Andrew Wilmot	18	Norman Harrison	29	Ann Malloy
	Jane Smith	11	Trey Deal	21	Susan Weimar	31	Jennifer Gordon
3	Catherine Carmichael		Al Stacer	23	Art Zegel		
	Caleb Clarke	12	Vickie Carpenter	24	Pam Hohenstreet		
5	Laurie Nielson	13	Richard Petty	25	Martha Carrick		
8	David Morgan	14	Michael Watchulonis	27	Addy Kisseih		

Capital Campaign Event: Cinnamon Rolls & Coffee - May 10



Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday - June 1



Found!

- ◆ Black framed glasses
- ◆ Pin "Class of 2014"
- ◆ White casserole dish
- ◆ Silver pot/lid
- ◆ Storage container w/blue lid



Dine Around the World!

Be sure to put these dates on your calendar and join your Eastminster friends on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for dinner over the summer months.

This is a time for great food, friends and fellowship!

June 11	Greater Good Barbecue
June 25	Imperial Palace
July 2	Las Colinas
July 16	Hush Puppies
July 23	Cookout at the Adles'
July 30	Mai Thai
August 6	Matthews Cafeteria



Kudos to Food Pantry Volunteers

Many thanks to these individuals who volunteered their time, energy, and efforts at the Stone Mtn. Food Co-op stocking shelves, sorting food/staples, packing bags, etc. during May 14-June 4.

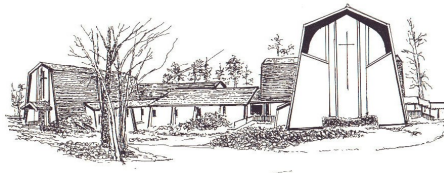
Outreach Committee

Carol Carmichael, Mary Clarke, Marjory Crawford, Ben Gerard, Larue Gerard, Barbara Hinkle, Sally McMillan, Barbara Morgan, Art Scott, Gayle Skelton, Charlene Smith, Charles Smith, Pat Sully, Janet Uthlaut.

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. June 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