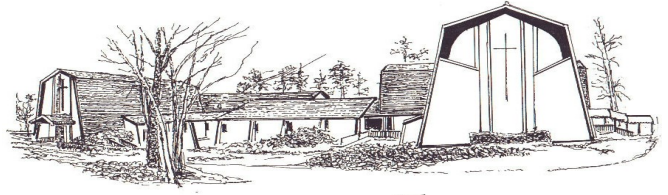


THE WITNESS



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 12, 2014

ARE YOU READY?

So, how do you get ready for Christmas? Are you like some people who start planning as early as January? Do you start buying presents and ornaments when they are on sale hoping you won't get in the frantic shopping season? Or, maybe you are the exact opposite and wait until the day before and pack it all in at once. No matter how you prepare you probably have figured out what works for you and that simply becomes your way of getting ready.

But that is Christmas. That is when we knock ourselves out trying to spend more money than we have, eating more junk food than we should and rushing around to accomplish more than we need. Christmas is about trees and wreaths and lights and all those other things that our culture pushes and our traditions demand. It is a tiring, hectic time but we look forward to it each year with all sorts of hope and expectations. But what about Jesus, do we get ready for Him?

The Western Christian churches observe a time of getting ready for the coming of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and we call it ADVENT. That word 'advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus* which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Parousia means a coming and in the New Testament refers to the Second Coming of Christ. So in our experience we get ready for the coming of Christ from two different perspectives: one is the Nativity and the other is when He will come again.

Here at Eastminster we begin preparing for the Nativity of Jesus on the last Sunday of November and we will have different and exciting opportunities to ready ourselves. Our Advent schedule describes the weekly Sunday evening events and I would encourage you to attend each and every one. We will also combine our worship services at the 11 O'clock service so we can all worship together. During these worship times we will explore the Greatest Gift we get at Christmas: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. We will then all gather for our special 5:30 worship on Christmas Eve.

This year let's set our hearts and minds on preparing for the nativity of Jesus with as much resolve as we prepare for our cultural Christmas. But there is that other perspective which we can easily overlook: that is His Second Coming. How do we prepare and ready ourselves for that event? To help us answer that, we will take the next three Sundays to see what the Book of Matthew has to say. It is all nestled in the 25th Chapter of Matthew (why not read it?). Jesus uses parables to tell his disciples about the planning and preparation for that time when Jesus will come again.

So ready yourself for Christmas as it is just around the corner; but remember that in the midst of all those gifts is a most precious one. It is the gift of Jesus who came and the one who died that you and I might live. And one more thing, be alert, for He is coming again!

Blessings

Caleb

Sympathy to...

the family of Gayle Owen who passed away October 17.

Missing:

20-30 chairs from the gym. Please return them or let us know where they are stored!



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 16 through December 14. 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 amount of donations. Deposit cash or check (designate Lilburn or Stone Mountain Co-op) in envelope provided. 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.

Outreach Committee



December Birthdays

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

Breakfast with Santa



Don't forget to check out the flyers posted around the church. Mark your calendars for Sat., Dec. 6. Please consider bringing your children/grandchildren to the Stone Mtn. Co-op's annual "Breakfast With Santa" to be held at the First United Methodist Church of Stone Mtn. adjacent to the food pantry. Doors will open at 8:00 A.M. with breakfast, a Silent Auction, Santa's Secret Shop for children, and a visit/photo with Santa. Festivities last until 11:00 A.M. Tickets will be available to purchase ahead of time or at the door. Cost is \$6.00 per person and children under 3 years are free. Please contact Linda Chapman for tickets (770) 921-9538, (404) 578-0610, lin_rod_stmnt@bellsouth.net. All proceeds collected assist with purchasing holiday gift cards for needy children and seniors in our local community. Hope to see you there!



Fall Work Day

Twenty six hard working volunteers attended the BGC Fall Work Day and completed an amazing number of tasks, including pruning, trimming, spreading pine straw, putting mulch on the playground and thoroughly cleaning the kitchen.

On behalf of Eastminster we cannot thank you enough for your help and dedication. We look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Work Day!



EPC "Caring Tree" - 27 years and counting!

Did you realize Eastminster's "Caring Tree" was organized in 1987 and we have been serving numerous families/individuals in our community for the past 27 years? Volunteers are always needed before and on "Caring Tree" Sunday, Dec. 14. We will be setting up the "Caring Tree" on Wed., Nov. 12 in the narthex and a smaller tree in Founders Hall. There will be a poster available for you to write your name and phone contact next to the number and family/nursing home resident you have chosen. 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. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 7. If you have the 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.



A big thank you!

Thank you to the many volunteers for the "Wear It First" Halloween carnival. So many helped to make this a huge success, and the children (and adults too) had a fabulous time. Over 70 cans of food and 24 bags of candy were collected for the Stone Mountain and Lilburn cooperative ministries! Please plan on helping again next year.



Greeters 2015

We all enjoy having someone open the door for us and making us feel welcome. This is especially true for first time visitors to Eastminster, and a new rotation of greeters for 2015 is being put together. This is an easy way to volunteer. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please email Janice Wilmot at gwilmot@comcast.net. The rotation is approximately every 6 weeks for the 11AM service. Thank you!



A note from your Director of Music

We are delighted to have several wonderful singers serving as section leaders within our chancel choir this fall. Please take a moment to read a little bit about them and be sure to welcome them to Eastminster if you see them walking the halls on a Wednesday evening or Sunday morning!

Samantha Burke, *soprano*, graduated from Tucker High School but spent part of her childhood living in South America – her family is from Guyana and Venezuela. She is a recent graduate of Bard College in upstate New York where she studied voice and violin. While a student at Bard, Samantha was a prize-winner in several singing competitions and participated in master classes with renowned international singers.

Jennifer Andall, *alto*, was born in New York and lived in New Jersey for most of her early childhood; but she has been living in Georgia so long that this feels like home for her now. Jennifer did her musical training at The University of West Georgia. In addition to her musical endeavors, she is a freelance artist and works as a substitute teacher in Gwinnett County.

Wheat Williams III, *tenor*, was born and raised in Decatur, GA. He began his music studies at Belmont University in Nashville, TN and has a degree in recording studio engineering and music business from Georgia State University. A lifelong chorister, he has worked with choirs throughout Nashville and Atlanta. Wheat has served as the volunteer business administrator for the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra and has been a featured soloist with the *Michael O'Neal Singers* as well as at Roswell Presbyterian Church.

Calling all Stone Mountain Co-op Volunteers!

We have the privilege and pleasure of serving our community this holiday season at the Stone Mountain Co-op. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex with information regarding this volunteer opportunity. If you can donate a few hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (9:45 A.M.-2:30 P.M.) December 1-22 please consider this gift of time and effort. For more information, please contact Linda Chapman: Home: (770) 921-9538, Cell: (404) 578-0610. E-mail: lin_rod_stmnt@bellsouth.net.

Notice!

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, November 30 following the 11:00 service for the purpose of electing new Elders and Deacons.



Poinsettia Order Form

If you would like to place a poinsettia 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, December 16*. Cost: \$10 each - make check payable to Eastminster and mark in the corner "Poinsettia".

Name of person (please print): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please distribute this flower to someone else to enjoy _____

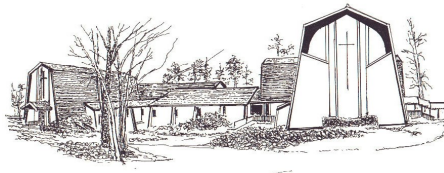
Given by: _____

For Office Use Only: Check No. _____ Amount: _____

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



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 45
Stone Mtn. GA
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. November 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 Program - Stacey Moura
Communications Coordinator ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarak