

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

December 10, 2014

Update...Update...Update

UPDATE: We have just received some really good news. Jeanne Simpson's application for a Validated Ministry to Older Adults has been approved! That ministry will be part of the ministry of Eastminster and is an answer to a lot of prayers and reality for a lot of hopes and dreams. Jeanne will complete the process for ordination and we can look forward to her ordination service sometime in the early spring.

Your session approved the funding of a new Older Adult Ministry here at EPC for the coming year and we all look forward to Jeanne coming on board to lead this ministry into what I know will be a great future. Many folks have worked hard over the last few years to make this a reality and I know that there are many more of you who will want to help Jeanne and others make this ministry a success for both EPC and our older adult community. You will be hearing more about this ministry in the weeks to come.

Give Al Stacer a BIG thank you for his work over the last year. With seminary taking so much of his time, Jeanne's arrival is nothing short of God's Hand at work. Give Jeanne a BIG congratulations for her accomplishments and passion for this ministry and give yourself a BIG pat on the back for all the good things that are to come.

UPDATE: We have just completed our Stewardship Campaign and although the pledges are not all in, we are pleased with the results so far. As of today we have 67 pledges toward our goal for 2015 which represents about 60% of our pledging units. Of those already pledging we have folks pledging for the first time and others who have increased their pledges to help with the ministries in the coming year.

There are many folks who wait until the very last to turn their pledges in, so for them I say: "It is the very end!". So if you have not pledged, please do so as soon as possible. We need to begin planning for the next year and your pledges guide us through that process. But, thanks to each of you for your generous response to the campaign and just remember how much God desires that we be a cheerful giver.

UPDATE: As we close out the first year of the Capital Campaign we are so blessed to have had so many members, and former members, participate in the effort to bring our facilities back into 'ship shape' condition. Of the pledges for the three years, we already have received almost \$140,000.00. With that we have begun repayment of the roof loan, installed our new security system and ordered our new sign (which seems to be on a slow boat from China).

The Committee will meet again in the New Year to consider the use of the funds for the year 2015 and make plans for 2016.

UPDATE: As we make our way to Christmas, may our journey be marked by love. As God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, may we show such love to a world in such great need!

Blessings,

Caleb

Dear EPC,

- All we can say is thank you. Thank you for the prayers, cards, emails, hugs and food during Lewis Gunter's illness and passing. It is such a wonderful blessing to have a church family. We truly appreciate the kindness and support.
The Gunter family
- I want to express my thanks for all the cards, phone calls, food, flowers, offers to run errands, and prayers during my surgery and rehab. No one could have a more caring congregation, and your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I am slowly making progress with my recovery and hope to be back in church soon.

With love and thanks!

Ann Lee Bussey



Will Norman's Ordination at Eastminster – Sunday December 28th at 3:00 p.m.

Will Norman, son of Bill and Lei Norman, and a "child" of EPC has recently received a call to serve as the next minister at St. John's United Church of Christ (UCC) in Woodland, California. This is Will's first called position and he will be receiving his ordination into the PCUSA. Session approved Will's request to hold his Ordination Service at Eastminster on Sunday, December 28th at 3:00 PM.

You are cordially invited to attend the worship and ordination service as we celebrate God's call for Will into full time ministry. There will be a reception immediately following in Founders Hall.



January Birthdays

1 Ray Hartsfield	11 Audrey Maly	18 Janice Wilmot	24 Daren Sorenson
Karen Hartsfield	12 William Hartle	19 Libby Fleck	26 Jeffrey Craig
Ginny Matthews	14 Nancy Phillips	Beverly Roberts	27 Beth Heckman
2 Marty Counts	15 Paul Brieske	James Willis	Morgan Peterson
3 Barbara Morgan	Andy Gobba	20 James Ripley	Shannon Honeycutt-
4 Bonnie Evans	16 Richard Eaton	21 Patti Staten	Smith
Isabella Timko	17 Kelly Brandon	22 Susan McManus	28 Dave Malloy
5 Rick Eaton	Al Lundin	23 Mary Gasser	31 Matthew Alexander
Henry Howard	Michael Swift	Ed Lavergne	
7 Kelley Dillard	18 Judson Stacer	24 Annie Ruth Counts	

Wednesday Night Programs

- Dec. 17 Book Club *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 31 NO Dinner or Program ~ Happy New Year!
- Jan. 7 TBA
- Jan. 14 Dr. Bill Chittick ~ “Schwartz Theory of Basic Values”



Current Events Discussion Group

Have you ever wanted to be able to discuss **current events in a way that you hear all “sides” in a respectful way that allows you to expand your understanding of complex issues?** If so, we have a new group for you! Beginning in January, Bill Chittick, (our own church member best known here as Joyce’s quiet husband) has agreed to moderate a discussion group about current events. Bill is so modest that you probably don’t know that he has a life as Dr. William O. Chittick, emeritus professor of political science at the University of Georgia. He has written books and articles about American foreign policy, public opinion, and the press. He taught courses in American foreign policy, international relations, and global policy analysis. He is former President of the International Studies Association/South and former Head of the Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Section (now Foreign Policy Analysis Section) of the American Political Science Association. Just a few months ago, Dr. Chittick presented a paper at an international conference held in Switzerland.

Dr. Chittick is also a believer in the Schwartz Theory of Basic Values developed by Dr. Shalom Schwartz a social psychologist at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This theory will be the basis for our respectful discussion group. Since this theory is not one known to most of us, Dr. Chittick will present the basics of the theory for the Wednesday night program on January 14. What better place to begin this type of discussion group. If you have any questions, please talk to Bill or to Mardee, who are both excited about this new adventure for thoughtful encounters to grow in our life together.

Preschool Project

We are so proud to share the good news that the preschool donated a total of 24 shoe boxes to "Operation Christmas Child" sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. These shoe boxes were lovingly prepared by our children and their families to send to children in war-torn countries like Iraq and Syria. The children were so happy to share their gifts with these children for this very worthy cause!

Mrs. Stacey



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all who contributed this year. EPC sent 44 shoeboxes, 24 of which were from the Preschool. Thanks to Stacey Moura, our Preschool Director, for enthusiastically supporting this project. The boxes from the Atlanta area will be going to Iraq and Syria.

Mary Bentley



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. 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. 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.



5 Year Anniversary!

On behalf of the Session and Eastminster Presbyterian Church, we celebrate 5 years of ministry with Mark Sauls and would like to recognize and thank him for his meaningful service to this Church. Mark began working at Eastminster in September 2009 as Director of Youth Ministries while finishing seminary at Mercer University. He has since graduated, married Sarah and become a father to Charlotte. His role has grown as well to Director of Mission and Youth Ministries, and now also includes working with the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.

Mark serves the Lord with a joyful heart and a huge smile. There is nothing better than to be greeted by Mark's warm smile on Sunday morning. He is passionate about our kids, leading youth group on Sundays, youth bible study on Wednesdays, and teaching Sunday School. He has a heart for mission and service to others. His service extends beyond mission and youth to include worship planning, preparing and running the AV at the 9 AM service, teaching and preaching, and being our resident computer expert. Everything that Mark does is a reflection of what's in his heart: a tremendous love of the Lord and a passion for serving others. We are blessed to have Mark and his family as a part of the life and community of our church.

Thank you Mark for your ministry among us!



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: _____

Elders Class of 2017

Julian Wade

Julian has been a member of Eastminster since 1979 and has served several terms on the session--including service with the Weekday Ministries Division, the Ways and Means Division, and the Personnel Committee and has served as Church Treasurer for many years. Following a 43-year career with DeKalb Technical College he retired in 2012 and was recently named "Dean Emeritus". Currently, he is also the Treasurer of the Mission Haven board and enjoys working with the Atlanta Team that is led by Susan Adle. In his "spare" time he is involved with AITP, a national association of computer professionals.

Mackie Wilmer

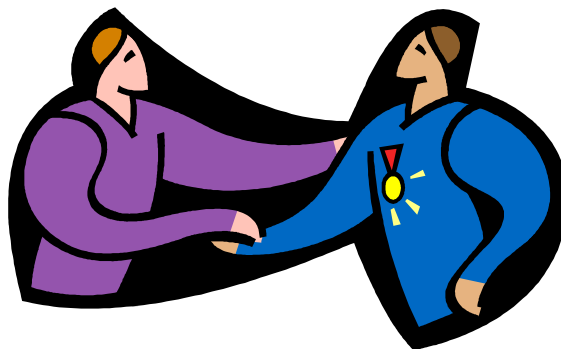
I live at Park Springs. My husband and I joined EPC when we came to Atlanta in '07. He passed away in '11. This will be the third church in which I have served as an Elder - Del. and S.C. being the other 2. I have 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. I graduated from Duke and taught school for 28 years. I am a native South Carolinian. I am honored to be asked to be an Elder of EPC, and hope I can be of service to the church.

Scott Uthlaut

Scott Uthlaut has been a member of EPC since 1988 and has served on the Session and the Board of Trustees. He has served on various committees, including the Worship and In-Touch Committees. He has served on a Pastor Nominating Committee and several Officer Nominating Committees. Scott also headed up the Ushering Guild and coordinated the Sound Board Operators. Scott currently is a member of the Chancel Choir and the Chancel Bell Choir. Outside of EPC, Scott serves on the President's Advisory Council at Columbia Theological Seminary and participates on the management team for Mission Haven.

Michael Watchulonis

Michael has been a member of Eastminster for several years. He is the father, along with his wife Vicki, of two beautiful girls, Siena and Merida. Michael has worked on Eastminster's Capital Campaign, producing videos for the congregation.



Deacons Class of 2017

Joyce Chittick

Joyce is a longtime member of Eastminster joining the church in 1975. She and her husband Bill reside in Snellville. Joyce was choral director at Parkview High School for many years and is a member of the Eastminster music committee. Bill and Joyce have four children and six grandchildren.

Mary Gasser

Mary Gasser has recently joined Eastminster, yet has very strong ties to the church. She is the Mother of Marilyn Dunn Davino. Mary is a resident of Park Springs and enjoys taking part in activities there as well as Eastminster.

Paula Parkinson

Paula is a long time member of Eastminster. She is very involved in the life of the church, lending her beautiful voice to the choir. Paula is always willing to lend a hand with projects from the Sunday bulletin to letting the Youth use her pool for their parties.

Ann Sorenson

Ann and her family have been members here at Eastminster for several years. They are residents of Smoke Rise. Both Ann and her husband Daren have two children, Kennet and Kallan who are involved with our Eastminster Youth Group. Ann has been serving on the Youth/Children Committee for the Capital Campaign.

Mary Acosta

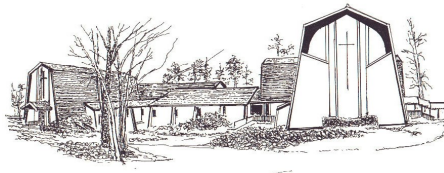
Mary is a long time member of Eastminster. She along with her daughter Bella are very involved in lots of things here at church. Mary has previously served on the Diaconate. She is also a Stephens Minister and a member of the Choir. Her other claim to fame is she is the daughter of Tim and Ginny Matthews.



THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Fax: 770-879-9590
Preschool: 770-469-4880
School Age Program: 770-469-9489

DEADLINES

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. December 31
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