

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

January 14 2015

Is It a Sign?

As all of you know by now, Eastminster Presbyterian Church has a new SIGN! Some would say it really is not a sign but a 'marquee'. I can't answer the question but regardless of the correct definition, churches have traditionally put a sign (or marquee) in a conspicuous spot to send a message to the small segment of the world that passes by each day.

I am sure the first signs were to announce the name and even denomination and to give some idea of the times of worship, prayer and study. But some churches add more information and some even try and attract attention with cute quips. Such as:

- God wants full custody, not just weekend visits!
- If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!
- Church shopping? We're open on Sunday!
- The rapture: separation of church and state!

The list is long and the attention getters are sometimes as funny as they are thought provoking. But regardless of what you call it or even what words and information are put on it, the sign sends a message. The question is what message is being sent and that depends on the purpose of the sign. Of the many different definitions of the English word SIGN, I think there are two definitions that are important for EPC and our new sign.

The first is the common definition: "A board, placard or poster displayed in a public place to advertise or to convey information". In many respects this is what our new sign does. It will tell those who see it that something is going on here and informs them of the event and the time. The other definition is: "Something that suggests the existence of a fact or condition not readily apparent". I think the latter is what we find will apply to EPC.

This sign speaks of something way beyond the programs and timing of Eastminster. I believe it speaks to the fact that even though we have been in the neighborhood for many years, we want to participate and communicate in a contemporary way. Many older congregations are comfortable just doing the same old thing the same old way. They are not willing to risk something new and as a result, they miss the fresh breeze of the Spirit of God in their sails.

The push behind our successful capital campaign was the desire to be better and to do more. I see this new sign and I get excited about what God has planned for Eastminster in the coming years. Just as the sign which advertises information is new, the sign that EPC is ready to follow God's leading and the Spirit's pushing is also new.

A sign, in and of itself, does nothing. But those who are represented by the sign can do everything! That sign should speak to you each time you pass and what it should say is this: We are God's people ready to serve, prepared to love and excited to be in ministry, right here and right now!

Blessings,

Caleb

Thank you!

- ◆ Thanks to all the participants & presenters for OASIS over the past year and a half. My life's been blessed reconnecting with old friends and extra blessed knowing the caring hands of Jeanne Simpson will be on the senior ministry at Eastminster going forward...
Al Stacer
- ◆ Thank you for your loving care during the illness and death of my nephew, Bob Stamper, Jr., and for the beautiful reception you offered after his memorial service. You are a very special family of faith, and I am grateful for you. Meda has asked me to send her love and gratitude along with mine.
With blessings and love,
Sally Jackson
- ◆ Bill and I would like to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful reception given for Will on the occasion of his ordination. It was such a blessing for him to be ordained in the church in which he grew up and was nurtured by so many wonderful teachers, youth ministers, and members of the congregation. We know EPC will always be "home" for him, as well as Bill and myself. Thank you again for all the love and support shown to he and Christin as he begins this next step of his journey.
With love and gratitude,
Lei and Bill Norman
- ◆ Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, and food. We would have been in a real bind without your help. What should have been a routine open heart surgery turned out to be a major problem, since my body developed some unusual symptoms. I am on the road to recovery now.
Happy New Year 2015,
Norman and Barbara DeLong



February Birthdays

1	Madison Peters	9	William Fleck	15	Carl Heckman	20	Joe Evans
4	Ron Hickes		Brian Swinkola	16	Deborah Abraham		Pat Sully
	Lynn Maxwell	10	Caroline Alff		Charlotte Sauls	21	Kevin Carmichael
5	Leon Collins		Nicholas Frank		Chris Smethers	22	Christy Howard
6	Mary Acosta	11	Camryn Thomson	17	Rose Marie Wells	24	Ruth Sullivan
	Sammy Meers	12	Carson Nix	18	Chip Carpenter	25	Callie Adams
8	Kinley Gall	13	Holly Eaton		Leah McCulloh	28	Cathy McCoy

Kudos to our food pantry volunteers

From December 1-22 several members of Eastminster volunteered numerous hours stocking shelves, sorting items, unloading food, and packing bags for customers. We appreciate their willing hands and loving hearts especially during this bustling holiday season.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Outreach Committee

Carol Carmichael
Linda Chapman
Mary Clarke
Marjory Crawford
Ben Gerard
LaRue Gerard

Ron Hickes
Sally Jackson
Rueleen Kapsch
Barbara Morgan
Cassidy, Carson and Ryan Nix
Missy Nix

Kathy Peters
Linda Redman
Bunny Smith
Helen Wilborn
Betty Willis
Janet Uthlaut



Cupid's aim: college students

Eastminster wishes to demonstrate how deeply we care for all our college students and others associated with our church. We always remember them monthly with seasonal cards and especially on Valentine's Day with special shoe boxes filled with numerous surprises. Donations of candy, granola bars, microwave popcorn, packets of dry soup and cocoa mix, cheese and/or peanut butter crackers, pencils, pens, post-it notes, highlighters, index cards, etc. are requested. Please bring these items to the church no later than Sunday, Feb. 1 and deposit them in designated containers located in the narthex, church office, 3rd floor hallway between sanctuary and education building, and preschool entrance. We will be packing 40-50 shoe boxes on Wed. morning, Feb. 4. This PW outreach project has become a tradition and the college students look forward to these care packages filled love and surprises. Signed Valentines are always welcomed and appreciated. Please join us in the church gym at 10:00 A.M. to assist with the assembly, packing, and wrapping if you are available.

Congratulations to:

- ◆ Sara and Dominick Fraser on the birth of their son Noah John Buck Fraser on December 12. Logan is the big sister and John and Barbara Hinkle are the proud grandparents.
- ◆ Bob Waggoner on the birth of his great granddaughter Kylie Ann Beckworth on December 22. Proud parents are Kevin and Jessica and big brother is Aiden. They reside in Panama City, FL where Kevin is a member of the United States Air Force.



28th "Caring Tree" - Another Success Story!

Our 2014 "Caring Tree" was one of the BEST ever! With a little effort from so many in our congregation we were able to humbly touch the lives of 40 nursing home residents from Mountain View and Meadowbrook nursing facilities as well as 15 families from DeKalb and Gwinnett counties. The gym was filled with a flurry of joyous activity before and following 11:00 A.M. worship. Boy Scout Troop #876 who meets at Eastminster eagerly purchased, wrapped, and delivered gifts for a family as well as sorting, checking, bagging, and delivering to five other families. The Preschool and After School programs also were involved with contributions to this holiday ministry. Thank you to everyone who cheerfully volunteered numerous hours obtaining names and other information, preparing lists and maps, making phone calls, coordinating our delicious luncheon, shopping, wrapping, cleaning up afterwards, and delivering the bags of gifts to friends in our local community. Truly, giving is the reason for this Christmas season! God has blessed us with the eternal gift of His son, Jesus Christ. Let us continue to share this message of everlasting love with others.



Outreach Blood Drive - Sunday, February 15

February is not only the month for Valentines but is also American Heart Month. What better way to show our commitment to the health of our community than with donating blood. Because blood supplies and donations are traditionally low this time of year, your donation will certainly impact many, giving them a chance at life. Hebrews 13:2 challenges us, "let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have entertained angels". Come, be that angel, be a "Valentine" and give from your heart ... the gift of life.

The LifeSouth Blood Van will be here Sunday, February 15, from 8:30 am - 1 pm in the parking lot. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex but all last minute donors are welcome. Requirements are that you be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and bring a photo ID.

Come, give from your heart. You have the power to save a life!!

Outreach Committee

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. January 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 Senior Adult Ministries - Jeanne Simpson
Director of School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool Program - Stacey Moura
Communications Coordinator ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac