

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

February 11, 2015

Annual Checkup

Whenever Paul would describe how Christians in a community of faith should look, he would use the human body as the example. He wrote to Corinth telling them that even though a body has many 'members', they are to work together with Christ as the head (1 Cor. 12). And in Ephesians and Colossians Paul writes that our being knit together is needed in order that we are both the recipients and at the same time agents of God's love.

So, how are we doing? Your response would probably be influenced by your perspective. Using the example of a body like Paul does, your perspective might differ depending on your being a foot or a hand or a nose. Or more aptly put, your talents and gifts place you at different parts of the church and your perspective is guided by that. So, how are we doing? Let's look back over the last year and see!

- ◆ If you are from the finance 'part of the body', 2014 was a great success. For the first time in many years we not only ended the year with money in the bank but we were in the black every month, all year long. Member giving exceeded pledges and your staff was able to limit many expenses. So we give ourselves a good report and a pat on the back.
- ◆ If you are from the worship 'part of the body', 2014 was a huge success. Our worship numbers are rising and I believe the worship experience is deeper and better than ever. I believe part of this comes from the hard work of the Worship Planning Team and part of it is due to the work of God's Spirit among us. But the key is the music program. Andrew and the choir have brought our worship experience to a new high. I see only high marks for worship and music program.
- ◆ If you are from the service 'part of the body', 2014 was a year that continued a history of success. Both individually and as a body, Eastminster continued many of its traditional service opportunities but we also had some new and rewarding experiences. Great year!
- ◆ If you are from the personnel 'part of the body', 2014 was remarkably good. The staff of Eastminster is exceptional. After years of turnover we are enjoying a staff which is not only talented and gifted but work together as a 'body'. I personally can't express in words how honored I am to serve with the staff and what sets the staff apart is the fact that each serves because they feel called and not just to have a job. I intend to do everything I can do to keep us together and I trust you will too.
- ◆ Sunday school, Weekday programs, Wednesday Night, Youth, Stephen Ministries, PW: All good!

It doesn't matter how you look at EPC, the state of the church is very good. But we are not called to be good but to be transformed (Romans 12:2) and I believe what we have seen in 2014 is the beginning of a mighty and powerful transformation. We don't stop where we are and look back but build on what we have and look to God to empower us and lead us into the future which he has already prepared for us. If we look to our own wisdom we will miss the transformation which comes from the One who can do exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine. I believe we are the body able to receive beyond our imagination!

Caleb

Notice!

The annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, March 8 following the 11:00 service.

"Meet Your Deacon" Cookie Social

Sunday, February 22 immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship and fun hosted by the EPC Diaconate.



Dear Brothers & Sisters at Eastminster Presbyterian Church,

Let me say first how humbled and grateful I am to call you my church home, and to have been ordained as a teaching elder among you all. It was truly a blessing to get to worship alongside you all on such a meaningful day in my own journey in ministry. I wish there had been more time to visit with everyone, as I don't get to make it back too often. But I cherish the conversations, cards, emails, and the knowledge that whenever I am back in Atlanta, there will be a home for me at EPC.

For the reception and for the stole; for years of care and support and taking risks to let youth lead you in worship; for the thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours that you have given to this congregation—thank you! I learned what it means to be the Church by your example, and I know that many, many others have as well.

I do not know when I will see you again—I may not be back in Atlanta until next Christmas—but I look forward to worshipping with Eastminster again soon, and keep you close always in prayer.

Grace & Peace, and much Gratitude!

Rev(!) Will Norman



March Birthdays

4	Ron Heckman	13	Michael Brieske	18	Matthew Fleck	26	Ginny Mickish
	Mackie Wilmer	14	Susan Hartsfield	19	Vincent Timko		Ray Rivera
6	Mark Sauls		Linda Petty	22	Lourene Collins		Marriner Smith
7	Danice Eaton	15	Art Scott	25	Ken Carpenter	28	John Hinkle
	Claudia Timko	16	Karl Alff		Mildred Magnuson	29	John Morgan
8	Kathy Peters		Zachary Burger		Buck Scott	30	Maureen Griffiths
10	Ashlin Swinkola		Mollie Dunn	26	Barbara Hinkle	31	Susan Dansberry
11	Susan Gordon		Shari McWilliams		Sally Jackson		Samuel Gowland
12	Courtney Carpenter		Patricia Willis		Matthew Lee		

Welcome new members!



Mrs. Connie Hoppe Lee Detlefs

Connie was born in Holland in 1924 and came to America when she was 4 years old. The family arrived in Miami FL, but settled in Atlanta after traveling around the country for 9 months. Connie married Jim Lee in 1948. They had a daughter and a son, and both currently live in CA. They were married 43 years. Jim died of colon cancer in 1991 when they were living in Hilton Head.

Connie met Walter Detlefs in 1998 and they were married in 2000. He worked on the Manhattan Project in the development of the atomic bomb. He was 94 when he passed away in 2014. His four children keep in touch with Connie.

Dr. James and Joan Stormont

Jim and Joan Stormont moved from Rochester, NY in 2012 and are transferring their membership from Third Presbyterian in Rochester.

Jim grew up in Evanston, IL where he was active in Hi-Y and Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout at age 13. He entered Yale University at age 16 and received his BS degree. He earned his Doctor of Medicine at Columbia University in 1951.

Joan grew up in Scarsdale, NY. She graduated from Smith College majoring in American Studies. Joan pursued a career in photography as an artist who specialized in environmental portraits. She is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with an Associates Degree in Photography.

Joan and Jim were married in 1950. They have two daughters: Sue and her husband live in Atlanta and Beth lives in Austin, TX. And two sons: Jim, Jr. is a hotel developer and Bob lives with his wife in Marietta and works from home. They have 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and another one on the way.

Jim retired as Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emeritus at the University of Rochester. He served on active duty in the Navy as Destroyer Squadron Medical Officer in the Western Pacific from 1953-1955.

They both enjoy world travel, golf, bridge, theatre and book clubs.



Our new sign is here!



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 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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

Wanted!

The Preschool needs clean, gallon size jugs for our Pre-K Class Igloo Project. A container for donations is located in the preschool hallway. Thank you so much Eastminster church family!



Please remember...

our World Day of Prayer on March 6.

Mark your calendars now!

The national Churchwide Gathering for Presbyterian Women will be held June 18-21 in Minneapolis, Minn. Registration fee is \$395.00. For more information please contact Rene' Boven, Janet Uthlaut, or your Circle Moderator.



Save the date!

Eastminster PW is inviting all women, friends, and neighbors to attend a special Winter Fellowship on Sat., Feb. 28 from 9:00 - 2:00 in the Adult Center. The theme will be "Celebrate the Gifts of God". Jeanne Simpson will inspire us with her devotions and three workshops will encourage creativity with florals and fashion. A continental breakfast will be available. Please bring a salad to share for our luncheon together.

Appalachian Service Project 2015

Last year Eastminster sent 20 people to Johnson City, TN for a week-long mission experience and we are going back this summer. We want you to go with us. We will be leaving on Sunday, July 5th and returning on Saturday, July 11th. Last year's trip was moving, inspirational and rewarding. We want you to share a similar experience this summer. The cost of the trip is \$400.00 and scholarships are available. Registration forms are available in the office or on line at eastminster.us/ministries/outreach. Come be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ working with and ministering to those in need. For more information contact Mark Sauls or Rick Adle.



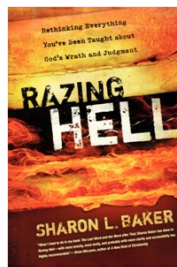
Calling all Presbyterian women!

Come join us for our annual gathering to be held at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 P.M. The theme this year is "One Heart, One Love, One Community". Sue McClew, our synod representative to the 2014 Global Exchange will inspire us with her experiences in Jamaica and Curacao. Don't forget to wear your butterfly pin if you are an Honorary Life Member. You may RSVP to your Circle Moderator or call the church office at (770) 469-4881. Carpools will be organized if there is enough interest in attending.

Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

- Feb. 11 Bible Study led by Mark Sauls
- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Service - Founders Hall
- Feb. 25 Guest "Speaker" Series - Ms. Samantha Burke: Singing Spirituals & Sharing Her Journey
- March 4 Bible Study
- March 11 Bible Study
- March 18 Mysteries of the Bible - The Last Supper
- March 25 Book Club *Razing Hell* by Sharon Baker

The idea of hell can haunt dreams and disturb sleep. Many wonder at the justice (or injustice) of it all, feeling confounded by a God who deems it necessary to send the majority of humanity to burn there forever. Seventy percent of Americans believe in hell, as do ninety-two percent of those who attend church every week. Clearly, it's a hot topic. Baker offers readers a safe space to contemplate tough issues as they rethink traditional views of hell. In her candid and inviting style Baker explores and ultimately refutes many traditional views of hell, presenting instead theologically sound ways of thinking that are more consistent with the image of God as a loving creator who desires to liberate us from sin and evil.



In addition to the programs, the world events discussion group, moderated by Bill Chittick, will meet in room 225 from 6:30 -7:30.

Lenten Study for Combined Adult Sunday School

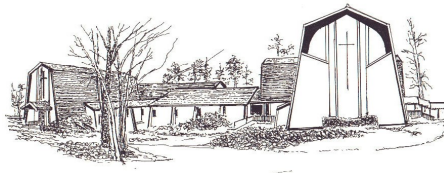
On Sundays Feb. 22 – March 29, all adults will meet in the Adult Center for a special Lenten study entitled “Will You Come and follow Me? An Adult Lenten Study on Hymns.” Under the leadership of Marty Hillman, Joy Meade and Chip Wilmot, we will look at the texts of some familiar and new hymns that are specifically used during the Season of Lent and then sing them through with new insight gained from the study. Because all three teachers are in the choir, we will end at 10:30 each Sunday, so be sure to come by 9:45 so we can start on time!



THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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School Age Program: 770-469-9489

DEADLINES

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. February 28
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