

# 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

**March 11, 2015**

## “For God so Loved the World...”

We are making our way through Lent and are probably at the mid-way point. We began with a service on Ash Wednesday and each Sunday we have tried to continue our focus on the importance and significance of the Cross, that wooden post used by the Romans to execute the worst of criminals.

For the people of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the cross was just a form of execution just as we consider the electric chair or gas chamber. It was the cruelest form of death used for only the vilest of criminals. That would have been the case with Jesus, but with the revelation of the empty tomb, the resurrection and the ascension, this Cross began to take on a different meaning. And because the Cross holds such divine and eternal significance; it is hard for the finite mind to fully grasp its full meaning.

Down through the centuries our church leaders have tried to describe the significance of the Cross using terms we can comprehend. Terms like atonement, redemption and deliverance. They have used ideas like it was a ‘rescue, payment or provision’. Although these are true, they just don’t seem to bring a full understanding.

What we do know is that each of us, because we are human, bears a burden of sin which not only separates us from a Holy God but leaves us subject to the penalty of death. What we also know and claim is that the event which took place so many years ago on that Hill called Golgotha, clears the way for us to our God and removes the penalty of our sin. So, however you might describe it and even if you do not fully understand it, the truth is that because of it, you and I are free: free from the penalty of sin and free to enjoy a relationship with the one who offered his life as the provision for it.

We can’t understand how Christ would empty himself of his godly nature and take on the form of a man and humble himself unto pain, agony and death just so that you and I might have life. We can’t comprehend how that act actually changes the way we can live and serve and love. We will never be able to fully know the eternal and divine forces at work on that day. But this one thing we do know: ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone that believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.’ John 3:16.

We are just a few weeks from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These are days we have set apart to remember and celebrate that love. This gives each of us time to set apart some of the ordinary in our own lives in order that the significance of the Cross is revealed in our lives. May we let go of some of those old ways and cling to the new ways that were wrought in love on that ‘Old Rugged Cross.’

Blessings,

*Galeb*

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## Building & Grounds spring workday

Saturday, March 28 from 8-12. Join us for projects both inside and out, rain or shine. Contact Scott Uthlaut with questions.

## Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 25 from 8:00 till 10:00. Join us for a hearty breakfast and shop the Mountain Shadow Garden Club plant sale going on in the parking lot.



## "Come see Columbia day"

Consider saving this special date, Thursday, April 16, and join us for a worthwhile experience of worship, spiritual enlightenment and fellowship at Columbia Theological Seminary. A lunch will be served and then we'll have an afternoon tour of the campus. Susan Adle may also lead us through missionary homes that Eastminster has refurbished with numerous hours of loving labor, as well as generous contributions of furniture and household items. Morning carpools may be organized. For more information please contact Rene' Boven or your Circle Moderators.



## April Birthdays

1	Dan Dansberry	7	James Gaskill	13	Hodges Willis	22	Scott Uthlaut
	Norman Delong	8	Tara Dillard		Elizabeth Willis	23	Carol Carmichael
	Suzanne Norman	11	Karsyn Frank	15	Jeanne Simpson	25	Jennifer Edwards
	Audra Swinkola		Marty Hillman	16	Mary Ann Howard		Andrew Swift
4	Beth Mitchell	12	Zandie Burger	17	Ann Clements	29	Suzanne Smethers
6	Gary Bennett		Sally McMillan		Henrietta Kisseih	30	Martha Gaskill
	Richard Whittier	13	Don Crawford	18	Marion Hannah		Stone King
7	Mary Bentley		Amanarh Kisseih	21	Rodger Chapman		Abigail Smith

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> and returning on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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.

## You're invited!

Jeanne Simpson's Ordination at Eastminster - Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend the worship and ordination service as we celebrate God's call for Jeanne into Older Adult Validated Ministry. There will be a reception immediately following in Founders Hall.

## Coming up for OASIS



OASIS for WEDNESDAY, March 25, NOT Thursday, March 26 as usual, is still scheduled with Rabbi Bob Kirzner giving us a tour of the sanctuary and discussing their worship service at Temple Beth David in Snellville (on McGhee Rd. off Hwy. 78) at 10:30, with us returning to the church at 11:30 for Jim Simpson's spaghetti and the salads, breads, and desserts you folks have already been signing up for. We will meet at church at 10:00 and take the church bus over to the synagogue, as well as cars, as needed.

Due to cancellation of OASIS in February, I have rescheduled Rev. Jack Vaiden, retired minister of First Moravian, for April 23. We will cater from Matthews on that date as well, with each of us paying \$5.

Please put both these events on your calendar and enjoy some good discussion of different ways of worship. Also, please mark your calendars for my ordination at 3:00 at Eastminster on Sunday, March 22 - since I'm being ordained to Older Adult Ministry, I would love to have you all there!



### Easter Lily Order Form

If you would like to place a lily 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, March 31*. Cost: \$10 each. (Make check payable to Eastminster and mark in the corner "Lily".)

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Welcome to our new member

Libba Ashworth pictured here with her husband

Bob (Rev. Robert Ashworth).



## Thank you!

- ◇ Thank you very much for thinking of me this (and every other) Valentine's Day! My boxful of goodies couldn't have come at a better time and it has been put to very good use! All of your hard work and kind thoughts and letters are very much appreciated. Hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day and thank you again for my box full of sweet treats and kind words! Love you all very much (especially you Momma).

Happy Valentine's Day to ya'll too!

Taylor B.

- ◇ Thanks so much for the care package! I'm not sure I know Eastminster Presbyterian, so I'll introduce myself. My name is Micah Dettweiler and I'm a sophomore at Emory. My parents are missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators and are currently in Nigeria, where I was born and raised. I'm majoring in biology and hoping to eventually teach science in high school or college level. If there's anything else you want to know about what I'm doing, let me know. Thanks again for the package--it means a lot.

Regards,

Micah Dettweiler

- ◇ Thank you so much for my Valentine's box! The candy and supplies are sincerely appreciated almost as much as the thought behind them. Thank you again!

Best Wishes,

Brett Wilmot

- ◇ Thank you for your thoughtful Valentine package and for including me with other students from Eastminster. Just looking over the gift made me feel younger. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

Thanks and Blessings,

Al Stacer

## Happy 5 Year Anniversary!

On behalf of the Session and Eastminster Presbyterian Church, we celebrate five years of meaningful ministry with our Pastor Caleb Clarke, and would like to recognize and thank him for his service to our Church. Caleb began his ministry to Eastminster in January 2010 as our Designated Pastor and after two years was called and installed as our Senior Pastor. Caleb has embraced and guided Eastminster during times of change and brought stability to our Church. Caleb is filled with the Holy Spirit and grace of our Lord, as evidenced by his preaching the word of God and his spiritual leadership. He has celebrated with us in good times and supported us in crisis, and many of us have benefited from his steady pastoral care.

With Caleb's guidance, Eastminster has completed a very successful capital campaign with a renewed sense of energy of what we are called as individuals and as a Church to be. We are thankful to be able to walk our faith journey with both him and Mary.



## Maundy Thursday Meal with Communion 6:00 p.m.



**On Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m.** everyone is invited to enjoy a meal catered by Mediterranean Grill – the same restaurant that catered our Seder meal several years ago. We will remain at tables for the communion service - which will be much like the original experience of the disciples in the Upper Room. Because it will be catered and we want to have enough food, **please make reservations for the meal by Sunday, March 29.**

## Talent Show and Youth Auction

The 2015 EPC Talent Show and Youth Auction will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you sing, paint, photograph, collect, draw, dance, tell jokes, or whatever your talent is, we need you to participate. The more the merrier!! If you have something you would like to contribute for the Youth Auction we really need that, also. Come join us for this fun filled evening of EPC's talent on display. For more information or to register your talent contact Rick Adle.



## Feeding the Hungry

"JESUS SAID..."DO YOU LOVE ME? FEED MY SHEEP." John 21:17

During the months of March and April we are encouraging all who are led to participate to contribute the following items for the Lilburn and Stone Mtn. Co-ops. The national Feinstein Foundation will match donations pound for pound. The list is divided into food and nonfood items. Please feel free to include any practical item that is not listed. All items should be non-perishable. PLEASE BRING ALL ITEMS NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 26.

### STAPLES:

FLOUR	OIL	SUGAR	COFFEE
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### PACKAGED FOOD ITEMS:

SOUP (all varieties)	CEREAL (dry & hot)	JELLY
PEANUT BUTTER	MILK (dry)	MILK (Parmalat)
TUNA	RICE	JELLO
VEGETABLES (canned)	GRITS (instant)	OATMEAL (instant)
DRIED BEANS	FRUIT (canned)	MEAT (canned)
MAC & CHEESE (boxed)	PASTA (canned)	CEREAL (no sugar)
SPAGHETTI SAUCE	ALFREDO SAUCE	PESTO SAUCE
SNACKS AND CRACKERS	JUICE (bottled)	
PASTA - SPAGHETTI, MACARONI, FETTUCINI		

### PERSONAL CARE:

TOOTHPASTE	SOAP (liquid & bar)	TOOTHBRUSH
SHAVING CREAM	RAZOR (disposable)	DIAPERS (sizes 3-5)
SHAMPOO	WIPES (baby)	WET ONES

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

DETERGENT (laundry)	DETERGENT (dish)	TOILET PAPER
KLEENEX	STORAGE BAGS (gallon)	

QUESTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

THANK YOU, YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Outreach Committee





## 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.



## Eastminster's Outreach Ministry to Rev. Martin and Margaret Mwangi

Martin Mwangi's connection to Eastminster was established when he came to Columbia Theological Seminary to study for his Masters degree. His weekends were lonely since his wife, Margaret, and daughters, Abigail and Mary, were in Kenya. He became endeared to many of our members through several visits to Eastminster to worship along with the sharing of meals. His wonderful humor and love of the Lord was contagious.

Upon returning to Kenya in January 2012, Martin was in a severe car accident. He was in a coma for three months, lost his sense of balance, had double vision, and was paralyzed for almost a year. Through the vision of Dr. Scott Weimer at North Avenue Presbyterian a fund was established to bring Martin and Margaret to the Shepherd Center for therapy with brain injuries in June 2013. Eastminster contributed this fund and several members visited him and helped with his transportation needs. Therapy was very effective. Martin's speech was much improved, he could walk again with the use of a walker, and he was able to dress himself. "God is good," Martin would often say, and "Margaret, we've got to get 'thank you' notes."

Through the efforts of members of North Avenue, Decatur, and Eastminster along with people at Columbia Seminary, Martin and Margaret returned for additional therapy this January. Eastminster was asked to provide transportation from the Mwangi's lodging at Columbia Seminary to Shepherd's Brain Injury Center for two weeks of their stay. Six Eastminster members gladly volunteered to fill this need and also drove Martin and Margaret on trips to the grocery store, Walmart, and other places they needed to go. Several church members brought supplies and meals to them. Compassion from Eastminster and the other churches surrounded Martin and Margaret.

Martin started a ministry for children and their families at a school near his home in Kenya. A portion of Eastminster's Echo goes to provide meals for these children and that encourages them to return back to the school each Saturday. These funds help fill empty bellies. Martin, with volunteer helpers, offers the students Christian education and recreation in a safe environment. Many of these children have joined the adjacent church and Martin has been able to work with the parents of the children. Martin and Margaret have chosen to help the children who have suffered abuse and hope to be able to counsel their parents about appropriate ways to raise their children, as well as to encourage the children.

Eastminster has a long relationship with Martin and his wife and has supported him through this accident and therapy. We are proud of this relationship and the connection Eastminster and the Outreach Committee have developed with Presbyterian churches in Kenya. Martin still praises God through his great suffering and slow recovery and he exemplifies a faith that exceeds fear. Please continue to lift up the Mwangi's and their ministry in your prayers.

*May God, who puts all things together, makes all things whole...*

*Now put you together, provide you with everything you need to please him,*

*Make us into what gives him the most pleasure, by means of the sacrifice of Jesus, the Messiah.*

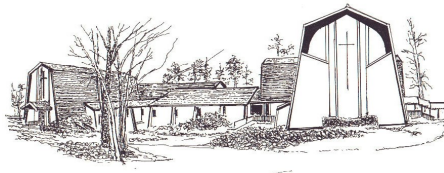
*All glory to Jesus forever and always! Oh, yes, yes, yes.*

*-Hebrews 13:20-21, The Message*

THE WITNESS IS  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
www.eastminster.us  
eastminsterpres@yahoo.com  
Contact: Paula McGill



**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. March 31  
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

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**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 Zabarak