

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 9, 2015

I just wanted to tell each and every one that Mary and I pray you will have a great Christmas season and we look forward to seeing you at all of the Sunday Advent events that are to come. I also hope you will plan to worship with us at the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve. It is not only an opportunity for each of us to pause in the midst of our busyness and come worship the One who is the author of Christmas. But, it is also a great time to gather with family and friends to sing those favorite Christmas Carols and hear afresh the old, old story of the reality of God's love for each of us. It is also a perfect time to invite family and friends to come with you. This service is made for inviting someone who might normally not go to worship. You will be glad if you take the time to invite someone and they will not only enjoy the service but experience the true meaning of the Christmas season.

In John 14:27, Jesus said: "***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***" (KJV) Some of us find ourselves troubled during the holidays and there are even some who find themselves afraid. But all of us seek the peace of God which passes all understanding. Hope, Joy and Peace is what we find when we look to Christ and His peace becomes our peace. However, we need to come and seek Him and then we will surely find Him: right here at Eastminster.

So often we make our other plans and then we go to church if nothing else is going on. Many times we realize that what we finally give to God is only what we have left over. We spend our time, money and resources someplace else and then offer the remaining. This Christmas let us celebrate the Greatest Gift ever given. God gave to us His best and His only Son. What are we each willing to give to Him in return?

Blessings to all this Christmas!

Caleb

Sympathy to

- ◆ the Whittier family on the death of Richard Whittier on November 11.
- ◆ Kelly Gunter on the death of her grandmother, Estelle Strickland Partin, who passed away on November 10.

Note:

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please notify Paula in the office.



NEW and exciting:

The PW plan to attend together the Stone Mountain Women's Club Annual Holiday Home Tour on Saturday, December 12. Tour five homes from 10 - 4 and have lunch at Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church from 11 - 2. There will be a gift market at the church during lunch. Tickets are \$25 which includes the tour and lunch. If you want to go with us, bring a check to the church office payable to SMWC for \$25 and put in PW envelope. We need your signups and checks ASAP!

Don't forget...

The Joe Evans Respite Care Center will be opening January 5, 2016. If you have a card table, bingo cards, board games, or puzzles, we could use them. Please contact Helen Wilborn at 770-469-4391. Come visit us! We are located between the office and the Preschool.



January Birthdays

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



AMIS (pronounced ah-**mee'**) is a French word that means "friends" and it symbolizes AMIS's mission of friendship and hospitality. AMIS connects international college students with local families and individuals who want to serve and socialize across cultures. AMIS wants to make international students' time in the United States a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience.

Over the years several members of Eastminster have hosted a college student in their home or met them for a meal. Outreach wanted to remind the church of this on-going opportunity. As hospitable as Eastminster is we know many of you would enjoy spending time cross-culturally! The commitment is to contact the student and get together with him or her at least once. You could meet out once or multiple times, invite them for a meal at your house, or even host the student for a week during Christmas. We would love for you to bring your new friend to church if you meet on a Sunday!

You can see the names of students and find out a little bit about them below. To sign up either contact Mark or logon to www.amis-inc.org/volunteers/amigo/. If you want more information you can browse www.amis-inc.org or Mark can connect you with the director, Lisa Majoros.

AMIS ID	name	School	m/f	country	major	interests
GT15003	Meeshu	Georgia Tech	F	India	Human Computer Interaction	Travelling, Reading
MU15001	Trang	Mercer	F	Viet Nam	Business	travelling
MU15004	Abdullah	Mercer	M	Saudi Arabia	Electrical Engineering	hang out
MU15011	Chi Min	Mercer		Taiwan		
GSU15007	Beena	Georgia State	F	India	Physics	Novels, Yoga, Science Fiction
OGU15003	Shuhei	Oglethorpe	M	Japan	business	watching and playing sports, taking pictures
GT15022	Nisheeth	Georgia Tech	M	India	Computational Science	Cooking, Crafts
GT15023	Boa-Lin	Georgia Tech	M	Taiwan	Computer Engineering	guitar, basketball, volleyball, cycling, longboarding, cooking
GT15024	SAGARIKA	Georgia Tech	F	India	Electrical and Computer Eng.	Traveling/ Meeting people
MU15022	Amal	Mercer	F	Saudi Arabia	Computer Science	Walk, Reading books, Aerobics, Watching movies.
EU15004	Sabrine	Emory	F	Tunisia	Public Health, Global Health	Traveling, new cultures (food, architecture, music, dance), exercising, hiking
GT15018	Nikhil	Georgia Tech	M	India	Civil Engineering	Music, I am trained in Indian Classical Singing



OASIS

The December OASIS meeting will be on December 17 at 11:30. For lunch, we will have pulled pork and turkey, so please bring a side or dessert to share. Mardee Rightmyer will lead a discussion on "Advent: Liminal Time." Please join us!



The Caring Tree Has Arrived!

Have you:

- ⇒ Looked and selected a card(s) for a nursing home resident or family with requests for gifts?
- ⇒ **Made plans to shop for gifts?**
- ⇒ Offered to assist in shopping for extra items?
- ⇒ Volunteered to help with wrapping and organizing packages for delivery?
- ⇒ Plan to deliver packages on Sunday December 13th?
- ⇒ **Signed up to assist with setting up, preparing, serving and clean up for the volunteer lunch?**
- ⇒ Made donations to the Caring Tree project?

The time is now! VOLUNTEER!
Be part of this Eastminster Outreach picture!

Contact: Linda Redman at lindaredman@bellsouth.net or any member of this Outreach project committee (Linda Chapman, Sally McMillan, Annie Ruth and Marty Counts, Mary Ann and Henry Howard, Bill Hutchinson, Carol and Pat Carmichael, Susan and Rick Adle, Barbara Hinkle, Beth Heckman, Kelly Gunter, and Mark Sauls).

Time, Talent and Treasures

“The Gift of the Magi”

O. Henry's famous story of Jim and Della and their Christmas gifts is still a classic, now more than 110 years after it was written. It's worth an Internet search and is a very quick read.

The young heroes of the story are newly married, deeply in love, quite poor, and eager to give each other a Christmas gift. They exemplify the word Generosity.

Generosity is an exciting word, a Christmas word. It invites the hearer to a deeper sense of giving, sharing, offering, sacrificing... the qualities we see in the life of Jesus and celebrate at Christmas.

O. Henry's story adds a nuance to generosity that we don't often connect with Christmas gifts but is an obvious part of the Christmas story: the notion of sacrifice. Jim and Della discover the deepest meaning of generosity in their spirit of sacrifice.

In this Christmas season, may generosity accompany all our giving, even if generosity calls once in a while for sacrifice.

We wish you a merry Christmas and thank you for your generous support of Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

Julian Wade
Chair, Ways and Means



Looking ahead... Salt Shakers

A new year is just around the corner, and that means it's almost time to form new Salt Shaker dinner groups! If you're not already a part of this opportunity for fun and fellowship for couples and single adults, then now is the time to join!

PARTICIPANTS WILL RANDOMLY BE ASSIGNED TO GROUPS of approximately 8 to gather for a meal during the months of February through April and come late August we'll regroup again. A willing host is designated for each gathering, and the group works together to find an agreed upon date. The host provides the main dish and others fill in with appetizer, side dishes and dessert. Some groups, though, might choose to meet at a favorite restaurant for dinner or for lunch after Church.

MAKE A NOTE: All of our Salt Shaker groups will meet together on Sunday, January 10. We'll gather for lunch right after 11:00 worship at Colossus Restaurant in Tucker...more details to come. EVERYONE - Salt Shaker participant or not - is invited!

BE A PART OF SALT SHAKERS!! Contact either of the following persons (or notify Paula at the church office.)

Annie Ruth and Marty Counts
mcounts9@comcast.net
(770)923-2605
Or
Janice and Chip Wilmot
gwilmot@comcast.net
678-458-8929



News Flash!

EPC donated 72 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year! This included 38 boxes donated by the preschool. It was exciting that many who had never done a box before participated. The children's Sunday school and choir donated 3 boxes. I hope all who did received a special blessing knowing a child in one of 130 countries received a gift of love. Thanks to all.

A note for the future: as you shop all year, look for sales of appropriate items for next year's box.

Mary Bentley

L-R: Zandie Burger, Mary Bentley, James Brandon, Thomas Brandon



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 15*. 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 _____

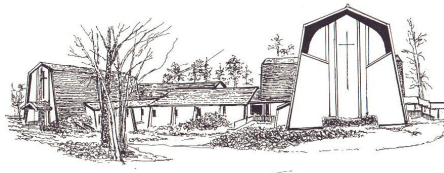
Given by: _____

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



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

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Pastor to the Senior Adult Ministries ~ Rev. Jeanne Simpson
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 Zabarc