

# 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 13, 2016**

## CONSIDER YOUR LEGACY

Monday night's college football championship game made history. Alabama had already won more titles than any other team. By beating Clemson, which was ranked number one in the country, the Crimson Tide added another trophy to their remarkable collection.

We want to leave a legacy. We want to build something that outlives us to show the world that we were here and our lives mattered. The builders of Babel are in the Bible because their story is our story: "Let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4).

God dispersed them, not because he opposes our leaving a legacy, but because he wants to build it. In the next chapter we find his promise to Abram: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. . . . in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2, 3). The people of Babel wanted to build a city—God wanted to build a nation. And not just any nation, but a people through whom he could bring the Messiah who would bless "all the families of the earth." If you're a Christian, you're part of "Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:29). Clearly, the sovereign Lord can make more of us than we can make of ourselves.

When God called Nehemiah to build the walls of Jerusalem, he began with the man's natural leadership gifts, integrity, and courage. Then, as Nehemiah says, he "put into my heart" a vision for building the city. And the people rallied around this vision, constructing the Holy City for the glory of their holy God.

By contrast, when Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum rejected Jesus' ministry, he denounced them (Matthew 11:20–24). Today these once-thriving cities on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee are nothing but ruins visited by tourists. When C. S. Lewis was preparing his "Talks" for the BBC during World War II, he had no way to know that they would be turned into one of the best-selling Christian books of all time and would change my life fifteen years after his death. Paul didn't know he was writing half of what we call the New Testament. Lydia didn't know she was helping to build the first church in the Western world.

Their obedience illustrates advice I once received from a wise mentor: Always stay faithful to the last word you heard from God, and open to the next. Oswald Chambers: "We have simply to obey and to leave all consequences with him. Beware of the inclination to dictate to God as to what you will allow to happen if you obey him."

I don't know how long the world will remember Alabama's victory last night. But I know that your next act of faithful obedience will echo in heaven forever.

**(Taken from the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture, Dr. James Denison. [denisonforum.org](http://denisonforum.org))**

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## OASIS

The next OASIS meeting will be Thursday, January 28 at 11:30 with lunch. Jeanne and Jim Simpson will present a program on The Scottish Border country and Religious Turmoil, using slides from their trip this past summer to Scotland and northern England. Please join us!

## Thanks!

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, hugs, food and phone calls while Michael was sick. I am so grateful for the Eastminster family and your kindness and compassion. May each of you have a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

Michael and Jan Zabarac



## Sympathy to

Pete Craig on the death of his mother, Mabel Craig, on December 13.

## Congratulations to

Sarah and Mark Sauls on the birth of their daughter Alexandria Olivia born January 10. Proud big sister is Charlotte and grandparents are Kathe and Michael Gowland.



## Note:

If you need assistance in exploring nursing home, assisted living, or other arrangements, please feel free to contact us. You may also access the Georgia Ombudsman website for further information at this link: <http://www.gacoco.org/>

CMS provides a site where you can obtain information about nursing homes in your zip code area, along with their ratings on care factors, via this link: [www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare](http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare)



## February Birthdays

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

## CARING TREE 2015



The Spirit of Christmas was evident at Eastminster on December 13<sup>th</sup>! Volunteers gathered in the gym to collect gifts for nursing home residents and community families, to share a delicious meal prepared by church members, and to deliver hundreds of gifts to our community. Participation and donations were contributed by many people and groups, including Boy Scout Troop 876, the Pre-School and After-School programs.

**This year we took gifts to 39 nursing home residents at Meadowbrook and Mountain View and to 20 families, plus an additional unexpected family.** Family recipients were compiled from our community, namely from Smoke Rise, Brocket, and Gwen Oaks elementary schools and Gwinnett special needs student families.

In addition to the nursing home residents and school families, there were a few other families added that helped make this year memorable. Rick Adle found a family in need by accidently text messaging the wrong number. He and Susan responded to their requests and made their desperate situation a lot better by giving the family something to open on Christmas. Alice Day noted the lack of *any* furniture for a family she took presents to and marshalled Eastminster volunteers to gather and deliver furniture and household items to this family. The family joined us for Lessons and Carols. Mark Sauls was contacted by Smoke Rise Elementary about a student's family that had lost everything. He was able to take them some items from Caring Tree along with basic clothes and winter coats. As Susan Adle noted at a Wednesday program, the Spirit of God was present and working with us for a special Caring Tree outreach!

**Thanks to the many unnamed participants!** This outreach could not be done without the support of congregational members who took cards, purchased and wrapped gifts, delivered packages, prepared, served lunch, and cleaned up, made monetary donations, and shopped for additional families. This year \$3,090 was donated for Caring Tree, and this allowed 8 volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts for 6 additional families and the remaining cards on the Caring Tree. Thanks to the organization skills of many members in the past and present, the well thought out process functions smoothly. Linda Redman, Linda and Roger Chapman, Mary Ann and Henry Howard, Susan and Rick Adle, Kelly Gunter, Sally and Ken McMillan, Annie Ruth and Marty Counts, Carol and Pat Carmichael, Barbara Hinkle, Beth Heckman, Alice Day, Bill Hutchinson, and Mark Sauls all helped make this event go well. There are always a few bumps along the way, but we had excellent problem solvers during the days leading up to the distribution, and some surprising outcomes! **Thanks for spreading God's love to our community! Please take a look at the pictures from Caring Tree 2015 located on the Outreach bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Library.**



## Samantha Burke Recital: *International Powers*

A concert of Slavic, Spanish, and American music featuring works by Rachmaninoff, Larsen, Heggie, Esparanza and more! Suggested donation \$10. Proceeds to benefit the Eastminster Presbyterian music program. Sunday, January 24 @ 3:00 p.m.



## Coffee Chat

Calling all EPC! The Joe Evans Respite Care Center will be hosting a "Coffee Chat" program, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10 a.m., and everyone is invited! The next "Coffee Chat" will be Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Join us for coffee or tea and some fascinating facts about Ash Wednesday. This month we will enjoy some home-made pretzels.

Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made beginning in the fifth century as a Lenten food in Austria, Germany, and Poland. So join us for this special program. Call Helen Wilborn @ 770-469-4881 to let us know you're coming!



## Outreach Blood Drive Sunday, February 21

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 Bloodmobile will be here Sunday, February 21, 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!!

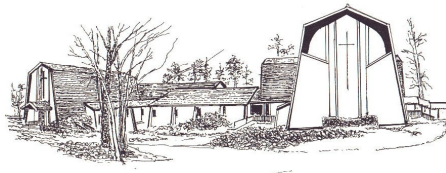
Outreach Committee



THE WITNESS IS  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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

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**Church Staff**

**Pastor** ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III  
**Pastor of 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  
**Director of Respite Care Center** ~ Helen Wilborn  
**Communications Coordinator** ~ Paula McGill  
**Financial Coordinator** ~ Jan Zabarac