

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 12, 2012

“Bougette”

Those of you who are fluent in French will already know where this article is going. For those of you who do not have a reasonable French vocabulary you will just need to read on...

Eastminster finds itself in the midst of two different seasons. As we make it toward Christmas we know that we are in the midst of **Advent** which is a season of expectation and preparation of the coming of the Christ Child. But, we are also concluding our **Stewardship Campaign**, a season where we invite our members to pledge toward the ongoing mission and ministries of the church. I would like to report to you about the former and leave the latter for another time.

We are closing in on the end of our stewardship campaign and we have a pretty good idea as to what the total giving for 2013 is going to be. There was a proposed budget offered by Ways and Means this fall but as best we can determine, we will need to revise our expected spending for the New Year. This process of balancing our projected income and expenses is a responsibility of the session. The Presbyterian Book of Order sets out that the session will prepare and adopt a budget each year and determine the distribution of the congregation's benevolences. It is also directed to provide full information to the congregation concerning its decisions in such financial matters (G-3.0205).

The process will look something like this: first the Ways and Means Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee will offer their recommendations as to the budget for 2013, the Administrative Council will review and make recommendations, and then these recommendations will be presented to the session for adoption. Then that budget will be reported to the congregation at either a regular or called meeting. All of this is to say that the budget will be reviewed by a number of people and committees even before being presented to session.

We are now in a time of discernment as to the proposed budget and in order that the final budget be balanced for the calendar year 2013 there will be needed revisions. In previous years we have included in the budget a category for what has been listed 'Challenge' but this year we will spend only what we can reasonably expect to receive. This will mean that certain areas of the mission and ministry of Eastminster will not get the funding as reflected in the proposed budget. It will be a balanced budget!

So, what can you do? First and foremost we can pray. Prayer is the place the people of God need to go to seek His will and His way for their lives and the life of his church we call Eastminster. It is a way we can demonstrate our willingness to seek what God desires for us rather than telling God what we want. For I firmly believe that God will provide us with exactly what we need but not necessarily all that we want. Secondly we can pray. Sometimes we have a tendency to talk to others about what we want for EPC. Would it not be nice to have a reputation of a church which prayed to God about our needs rather than talking about all that we want? The truth is what we want is not what we need. Lastly, we can pray. For it is what God calls us to do and prayer affords God the opportunity to do what he wants to do in the first place.

And for those who have made it this far: the French word *bougette*, which is a purse, is the word from which we derive our English word 'budget'.

Blessings,

Caleb

Notice:

The Church Office will be closed on
December 24 and 25 for Christmas and
January 1 for New Year's.



New year, save the date

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 2, 2013. Presbyterian Women at EPC will be hosting another annual winter retreat featuring Dana Hughes as our keynote speaker. Her topic will be "Spirituality and Gardening". Her message will revolve around the book "Like a Garden" by Sara Covin Juengst. We will begin at 9 A.M. with coffee and continental breakfast and conclude following a pot luck salad lunch at approximately 2 P.M. Invite your neighbors and friends for this memorable occasion.



January Birthdays

1	Ray Hartsfield	11	Audrey Maly	19	David Conaway	26	Jeffrey Craig
	Karen Hartsfield	12	William Hartle		Libby Fleck	27	Leslie Bunce
	Ginny Matthews	14	Nancy Phillips		Beverly Roberts		Beth Heckman
2	Marty Counts	15	Paul Brieske		James Willis		Morgan Peterson
3	Barbara Morgan		Andy Gobba	20	James Ripley		Shannon Honeycutt-
4	Bonnie Evans	16	Richard Eaton	21	Patti Staten		Smith
	Isabella Timko	17	Kelly Brandon	22	Finley Adle	28	Jeff Bunce
5	Rick Eaton		Al Lundin		Susan McManus		Dave Malloy
	Henry Howard		Michael Swift	23	Mary Gasser	30	Gayle Owen
7	Kelley Dillard	18	Judson Stacer		Ed Lavergne	31	Matthew Alexander
10	Dan Vincent		Janice Wilmot	24	Annie Ruth Counts		

Congratulations to...

Rachel Warren and Jeremy Pendley who were married October 26. The couple resides in Snellville.

Missing:

Brass flower urn from the sanctuary



Angels aware!

Did you know that EPC has a team of angels that are available at short notice? I was walking down the hall when I landed on my dignity! Soon I was surrounded by helpers with lifting, ice and many offers of sympathy. Thank you so much, angels.

Ann Clements

New college address?

Please let the Church Office know if your college child has a new address starting in January.



Accounting Corner

Since we are in the last month for 2012, please keep in mind that it is important as to how and when your contribution is received. This dictates what year it will be applied.

For contributions that are mailed, the envelope must have a December postmark for it to be applied to 2012.

For contributions that are brought to the church, I must receive it by December 31. If you put it in the offering plate on January 6 and have dated it December, it will still be applied to 2013.

For contributions that are done online through your bank, the date of the check will determine to what year it will be applied. Sometimes those envelopes that come from you bank do not have dated postmarks.

Also, we as a staff are always looking for ways to save money. If you shop at Staples, we have a rewards program there. At checkout, if you would like, let the clerk know that you would like your purchase to be applied to Eastminster's Reward Program. All you have to do is give them the church's telephone number 770-469-4881 and apply it to Jan's Rewards. Last month I was able to save \$12 a case for paper because we had accumulated enough award points. Also, you can turn in your empty ink cartridges to the office. We are allowed 20 cartridges a month and Eastminster will receive additional reward cash. Thank you so much for your help.

Jan Zabarac

Join us!

Outreach is committed to ringing the Salvation Army Bells at Northlake Mall again this year. If you would like to take part in this wonderful, rewarding Christmas tradition please contact Rick Adle 770-498-0532. We have openings at 12:00, 2:00 and 4:00. Come join your friends on December 15.



Your 2013 Offering Envelopes are here, ready for pick up.

They are listed in alphabetical order. We did make some changes this year. If you did not receive a box of Offering Envelopes and would like a box to use in 2013, please contact Jan Zabarac and we will be happy to provide you with a preprinted box of envelopes. By picking up your envelopes, we can avoid paying postage (approximately \$3.25/box) and your participation is very much appreciated. Thank you!!



Clerk's Corner -

Excerpts from minutes of November 18 Stated Meeting

- ◆ Worship Committee is asking for volunteer to take on duties to coordinate communion and servers. Anyone interested please see Norm Harrison or Cynthia Heckman.
- ◆ Weekday Ministries – Both pre-school and after school programs are doing well. The after-school program currently has 70 children enrolled which is the limit allowed by the state. Awaiting state inspection to allow additional rooms so more children can be enrolled.
- ◆ Building and Grounds – Damage on an interior column has been discovered. Architect and engineer (if needed) will be contacted to determine scope of work needed to repair. Roof bids and a source of funding are still ongoing by B & G and Ways and Means.
- ◆ Outreach – EPC will ring bells for Salvation Army at Northlake, Saturday, December 15. See Rick Adle for more details and to volunteer to ring.
- ◆ Ways and Means – October income was in the black however we continue to have a \$42,647.99 deficit.
- ◆ Wednesday, December 19 - Children's Christmas Pageant.

You're Invited

The Salt Shaker groups invite you to a Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 PM in Founders Hall

Friday, December 14

Free to everyone...even if you aren't a Salt Shaker!

Come join in the fellowship and a Christmas Sing-a-Long afterwards.

Please invite friends and neighbors too!

Please arrive at 7:15 with your favorite Christmas dish to share.

(If you don't have time to cook, no worries...we always have plenty of food.)

Let us know what dish you plan to bring, or we may have all desserts!

Larry Bentley 770-921-7220 or Lbentley2@gmail.com

Charlene Smith 770-978-6503 or csmith108@marykay.com



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 18*. 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 _____

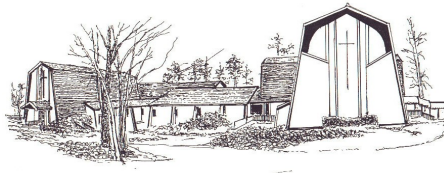
Given by: _____

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



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 45
Stone Mtn. GA
30086

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. **Monday, December 31**
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Director of Family Ministries ~ Mark Sauls
Director of Christian Education ~ Mardee Rightmyer
Director of School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool ~ Sarah Baldwin
Secretary ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac